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Latin America Report

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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

CONTENTS

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Text of St Lucia CRUSADER Article Questioning Libyan Ties (CRUSADER, 8 Nov 86)	1
St Lucia Letter-Writer Recounts Odlum's Links to Libya (THE VOICE, 26 Nov 86)	4

BARBADOS

Central Bank Reports on Trade With Caricom (DAILY NATION, 29 Dec 86)	7
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---

BOLIVIA

Mining Cooperation Agreement Signed With FRG (EL DIARIO, 7 Dec 86)	8
Agricultural Cooperation With Israel To Be Expanded (PRESENCIA, 9 Dec 86)	10
Government Unemployment Figure Stands at 20 Percent (PRESENCIA, 2 Dec 86)	12
Emigres To Upper Beni Reportedly Achieve Economic Success (Jose Taboada Calderon de la Barca; EL DIARIO, 6 Dec 86)	14
Small Miners Claim ENDE Demands for Payment Unjust (EL DIARIO, 9 Dec 86)	17
New Bank To Administer Development Funds (PRESENCIA, 9 Dec 86)	19
Briefs	
Italian Financing	21

Vuelta Grande Project	21
Meat Exports Under Consideration	22
MACA Investment Plan	22
Armed Forces Budget Unchanged	23

BRAZIL

French Space Official Visits With Technicians (AFP, 17 Jan 87)	24
Army Minister Stresses Need for National Security (Brasilia Domestic Service, 19 Jan 87)	26
Briefs	
Decree on Indian-Squatter Conflict	27
Satellite-Launching Center in Alcantara	27

CHILE

Luis Corvalan: Insurgency Not New to Communists (ERCILLA, 10-16 Dec 86)	28
Communist Party Orientation Described (Luis Guastavino; EL PERIODISTA, 19-25 Dec 86)	33
Clotario Blest on Labor Movement (EL MERCURIO, 23 Dec 86)	36
Reaction to Minister Buchi's Economic Report (EL MERCURIO, 25 Dec 86)	38
Nunez Criticizes Political Militarization, Terrorism (EL MERCURIO, 30 Dec 86)	42
Reactions to Political Party Law (EL MERCURIO, 2 Jan 87)	45
Sanfuentes Scores Law on Political Parties (EL MERCURIO, 17 Jan 87)	49
Valdes Discusses Country Situation (Lima Panamericana Television, 18 Jan 87)	50
Leaders on Efforts To Achieve Unity Within Left (Santiago Radio Chilena, 20 Jan 87)	51
Outlook for Nonmetal Mining in 1987 (EL MERCURIO, 24 Dec 86)	53

CUBA

Column Continues Examination of Problems Facing Women
(GRANMA, 17, 19 Nov 86) 55

Issue of Illegitimate Children 55
MININT, FMC, MINSAP Measures 58

ECUADOR

Febres on Threat to Democracies
(DPA, 18 Jan 87) 62

Briefs
Debt Renegotiation Delay 63

GUYANA

Newly Accredited Ambassadors Assess State of Relations
(GUYANA CHRONICLE, 20 Dec 86) 64

Ambassador From Austria 64
Exchange With Algerian Envoy 65

Jagan, Government in Dispute Over Funding Request
(NEW NATION, 30 Nov 86; GUYANA CHRONICLE, 23 Dec 86) 66

House Leader's Attack on Jagan 66
Jagan Statement 67
Government's Response 68

New Municipal Councillors Take Oath, Elect Mayors
(NEW NATION, 30 Nov 86) 69

Region 4 Meeting Examines Corruption, Other Shortcomings
(NEW NATION, 30 Nov 86) 70

PPP Statement Comments on Status of People's Militia
(MIRROR, 7 Dec 86) 71

National Assembly Confirms Tax Bill Following Debate
(Dhanraj Bhagwandin; GUYANA CHRONICLE, 23 Dec 86) 72

New 'Independent' Weekly Paper Issues Policy Statement
(STABROEK NEWS, 5 Dec 86) 73

JAMAICA

Ganja Issue in Political Spotlight; PNP Hits Seaga Charges
(THE DAILY GLEANER, 3, 4 Dec 86; THE SUNDAY GLEANER,
7 Dec 86) 75

Venezuelan Magazine Article	75
PNP Denial	76
Further PNP Reaction	78
Defense of Drug 'Barons'	78
Another Call for Legalization, by Morris Cargill	80

MEXICO

Differences Over PSUM Involvement in Vote Forum Ventilated (ASI ES, No 180, 17 Oct 86)	81
Former Official Approves of Temporary Moratorium Proposal (Adrian Lajous; EXCELSIOR, 5 Dec 86)	85

NICARAGUA

Bermudez on Future Plans, UNO-FDN Relations (Enrique Bermudez Interview; LA PRENSA, 8 Jan 87)	88
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

PARAGUAY

Alleged U.S. Exploitation of Blacks, Latins Denounced (Editorial; LA TARDE, 6 Jan 87)	91
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

Paraguayan Communists Visit Hungary (MTI, 7 Dec 86)	93
--------------------------------------------------------------	----

ABC Director Sees 'Surprise' in 1988 Elections (AFP, 19 Jan 87)	94
--------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

Radio Nanduti Employees Laid Off (HOY, 10 Jan 87)	96
------------------------------------------------------------	----

Briefs

Agreements Signed With Israel	97
FRG Pressure Against Stroessner Demanded	97
Ypacarai Colorado Member Held Incommunicado	97
Peasants Begin Hunger Strike	97

PERU

Report of National People's Assembly Organizing Committee (UNIDAD, 1 Dec 86)	99
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

Results of PCP Plenum, 29-30 November 1986 (UNIDAD, 8 Dec 86)	103
------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

Budgetary Deficit Larger Than Anticipated (EL COMERCIO, 15 Dec 86)	107
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

Agricultural Production To Increase 6.3 Percent in 1987
(EL COMERCIO, 21 Dec 86) 108

Briefs

Ninth PCP Congress 110
'Chaos' in Cantogrande Prison 110
Police Promotions 111

ST LUCIA

PLP Organ Comments on Use of Troops in Grenada
(Editorial; CRUSADER, 6 Dec 86) 112

Hunte Hit for Supporting CBI After Compton's Rejection
(Editorial; CRUSADER, 8 Nov 86) 114

Political Maneuvering Highlights Election Preparations
(CRUSADER, 22 Nov 86; THE WEEKEND VOICE, 22 Nov 86) 116

SLP Executive Meeting 116
SLP Rebuff of Odium 118
Analysis of Odium's Position, Editorial 119
Review of Preparations 120

Briefs

SLP Paper 121

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Briefs

Bequia Airport 122

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

TEXT OF ST LUCIA CRUSADER ARTICLE QUESTIONING LIBYAN TIES

Castries CRUSADER in English 8 Nov 86 p 4

[Unsigned article "The Caribbean Left—Left in the Lurch?" For a 21 November 1986 Bridgetown CANA report on this article, see the 24 November 1986 Latin America DAILY REPORT FBIS-LAM-86-226, pages S1-S2.]

[Text]

Radicalism in the Caribbean has been dealt several blows apart from the tragic collapse of the Grenada Revolution, the very Un-Caribbean brutality of the murderers of Bishop has tainted the left and has forced a distinction between the hard-line Marxists-Leninists and the Populist Socialists following a more or a less Social democratic line. But when all is said and done the recovery of the left since the catastrophe of 1983 is nothing short of surprising given some of the subsequent body blows.

One such body blow is the now skilful manipulation of the Political machinery in the Caribbean by the U.S. the formation of the Caribbean Democratic Union and the Militarisation of the region are effective tools in achieving this sophisticated level of interference. The creation of Centrist Parties and the provision of incentives to woo leftists away from their organisations have created a massive disruption among radical groups.

The use of the Libyan threat to the Caribbean as a smoke-screen of fear has greatly damaged the credibility of some leftist organisations. A mysterious document circulated by the State Department earlier this year had as its sole purpose, the identification of Caribbean leftist with the extension of Libyan influence in the Region for sinister, although unspecified motives.

The success of this Anti-Libyan Propaganda campaign poses a series of awkward questions for those on the Caribbean left with a serious commitment to Progressive ideals. First, why has the mud stuck? It is an unfortunate fact that the Libyans through insensitivity or indifference have done much of the Imperialists work for them. A recent case in point is the speech of Colonel Gaddafi at the Non-aligned Conference in Harare. This contained a call to arms which was seen by most people

as a General Invitation to violence rather than a specific call to certain groups like the African National Congress and SWAPO which are engaged in very significant and crucial liberation struggles. With his speech Gaddafi alienated a considerable body of opinion in Third World countries.

Had the Libyan espousal of violence been confined to colonel Gadaffi's NAM speech, this might have been explained in terms of the heady revolutionary heady revolutionary atmosphere created in Harare. But it seems to be more deep-seated. Participants from progressive forces at conference in Tripole in March, and most recently in September, heard similar exhortations to mass insurrection. Somehow the Libyan Leader appears eager to enhance his image as the instigator of all violence and the father of world terrorism.

The second and more serious question is; if through it's Association with Libya the Caribbean left risks becoming identified with terrorism, then what should the response be? Has the time come for some painful rethinking?

The Left is poised to regain much of the ground lost after the Grenada Debacle. As the Caribbean people become increasingly aware of the incompetence and inability of their Governments to provide the basic necessities of life despite their slavishly Pro-Reaganstance, the tide is slowly turning in the left's favour. There are hopeful signs everywhere.

But this is not to say that the Imperialist Forces are weak let alone already-beaten. Far from it. The hangers-on of reaction are still strong, immeasurably better-financed and have at their disposal the instruments of State Authority with which to harry the left. The left is therefore in no position to be generous to its enemies. It is for consideration whether the Libyan Association is not indeed an act of generosity. A foolish forging by the left of an instrument for their own destruction.

The motive behind the Caribbean Left's association with Libya has been un-ambiguous. Faced with an enemy backed by the vast resources of American Imperialism, it has forced itself to seek assistance from outside the region. The Left has never made any secret about its gratitude over any help from Progressive Countries.

But it is more difficult to establish what is Libya's real geopolitical interest in the Caribbean. The nearest Libyan connection has been the Caribbean National Movement whose strong Anti-Imperialist position has forged a link between Libya and the Caribbean. Yet the Libyan attitude has been ambivalent. Judging from the failure of the CNM to convene the People's Conference scheduled for last July, it seems that the hoped for Libyan funding was not forthcoming. There may be a number of explanations for Libya's lack of generosity, the State of the oil Market or the dislocation following the U.S. Invasion, for example, but it may also be that

the true Libyan Objective is to continue its war with the US with Caribbean proxies as cannon fodder. When it found out that the CNM wanted nothing to do with terrorism Libya turned the tap off.

Without becoming embroiled in tiresome speculation about Libyan intentions, it is clear that the Caribbean Left is paying a high political price for its Libyan links without securing a real return in terms of value to the Leftist struggle in the Caribbean. The perception has gained ground that the Left is willing to play Terrorist games for Financial benefit-something quite alien to all Caribbean Traditions. And all the more so when the games concerned appear to have no-

thing to do with Caribbean realities but are merely the unwanted importation into the region of a quarrel between two Non-Caribbean Countries namely Libya and the United States.

The Libyan link therefore appears to be fraught with dangers for the Left and it is not easy to argue convincingly for its continuance. The Caribbean Countries and organisations outside the Caribbean who pursue their own self interest to the embarrassment of their supporters in the Region are not helpful to the cause.

In seeking help the Left may be better advised to look more to those Countries such as Cuba which conscientiously support the establishment of real Socialism in the Caribbean.

/9317
CSO: 3298/099

ST LUCIA LETTER-WRITER RECOUNTS ODLUM'S LINKS TO LIBYA

Castries THE VOICE in English 26 Nov 86 p 9

[Letter to the Editor: "Odlum and Libya"]

[Text]

THE EDITOR: After reading the article "The Caribbean Left — Left in the Lurch?" published in the Crusader of November 8th instant, it became clear to me that Bro. George is the greatest political Tarzan in our history. After exposing all the Tarzans and Judases, he is now demonstrating how to be a Tarzan at the international level.

Normally it is accepted in political circles that foreign policy is an extension of ones domestic policies, so for some of us who understand that and read the above mentioned article in the "CRUSADER," we could conclude that the article is an extension of what happened in 1981, when Bro. George joined with Compton to bring down the SLP Government. What is evident is that Bro. George has now joined hands with Reagan and Thatcher to call his one-time friend and financer, Colonel Gaddafi, a "terrorist."

He wrote: "Participants from progressive forces at conferences in Tripoli in March, and most recently in September, heard similar exhortations to mass insurrection. Somehow the Libyan leader appears eager to enhance his image as the instigator of all violence and the father of world terrorism."

It is known that he is the only person from St. Lucia who attends meetings organised by the Colonel in Tripoli. So as a veteran of many Tripoli conferences, it is strange that it took the March meeting and the reports he got from the September meeting, to convince him of the Colonel's objectives. It is alleged that he skilfully avoided the September meeting by missing a flight in Santo Domingo.

To better understand "George the Tarzan," it is important for us to take a look at the history of his relationship with the Libyan Government. It was reported in the "VANGUARD" of Saturday June 26th 1982 that Bro. George was in Libya. This was confirmed in the front page of the "CRUSADER" of July 3rd 1982, where it was reported that Bro. George was selected to speak on behalf of the Caribbean Group at a Libyan organised conference.

But it was not until after the invasion of Grenada by the U.S. armed forces, that the real aim of the Tripoli Conference was exposed. Among the documents taken by the Americans during the invasion was a "Report on the General Congress of the World Centre for the Resistance of Imperialism, Zionism, Racism and Reaction" held in Libya. The report was written by one Godwin Horsford who was the N.J.M. Representative at that Conference. This report was published by the U.S. Department of State and Department of Defence in September 1984 as document No. 34 in the "Grenada Documents. An overview and selection."

According to the Horsford Report (Document No. 34) some Caribbean delegates went to Libya via Cuba and the others via London. Those who went via Cuba were informed by the Cubans

that what they were invited to was not a Conference in solidarity with the people of El Salvador, but a Conference to establish the Colonel's own international organisation. Horsford reported that one Cde. Phinera asked those present to be very careful with the positions they take at the Conference on the main issues. In Page 1 of the report we read:

- (1) That we should avoid giving support for the idea of Libya being the centre of the World Anti-Imperialist Struggle and its military implications of a rapid development force against imperialism;
- (2) 'That we should only give solidarity expressions for the proposed world centre.'

The report went on to point out that Cuba would not be participating in the Conference as the Communist Party of Cuba, but as OSPAAAL (Organisation for Solidarity with the Peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America), since the Cuban Government did not want to be implicated in Libyan plans for terrorism. It is important to note that at the brief meeting in Cuba, it was agreed that the N.J.M. of Grenada would speak on behalf of the Caribbean.

Bro. George was among those who went via London, and disassociated themselves with the positions arrived at in Cuba. As a matter of fact the report went on to point out that the Libyans accused the Cubans of being "puppets of Moscow." As a result of the closeness of the N.J.M. to the Cubans, the Libyans went as far as trying to prevent Grenada from being placed on the Secretariat of the Conference. Bro. George got favoured-treatment from the Libyans and that is why he was allowed to speak for the Caribbean delegates, and not the Grenadians.

When it came to assistance for the Caribbean Groups, Bro. George and elements of his type accepted the bilateral approach, rather than the multi-lateral approach that was being advanced by the Grenadians.

Could it be that Bro. George, unlike the Grenadians and Cubans, accepted the Libyans proposal to have rapid deployment forces to carry out military attacks on imperialist bases and that is why he got favoured treatment? The minutes of the N.J.M. political bureau meeting (Document No. 83) of Wednesday 27th October 1982 reports that a letter was received from the Libyan People's Bureau requesting the N.J.M.'s assistance in organising a follow-up meeting with the groups that attended the Libyan Conference. The PLP of St. Lucia was No. 1 on the list. That meeting did not take place, but it is known that Bro. George went to Guyana where follow-up discussions were held with officials at the Libyan Embassy.

What is significant is that except for the N.J.M., none of the groups who travelled to Libya via Cuba were invited, because of the positions taken by them at the Conference in Libya.

Bro. George left St. Lucia on April 3rd 1983 to travel to Libya via London. This was his second trip and a follow-up on his first visit. He returned to St. Lucia on April 21st 1983, and at a public meeting held on the market steps the same night, he praised the Libyan leader as a "Great liberator of oppressed peoples." The weekend "Crusader" of April 23rd 1983 also published pro-Libyan articles.

During the month of May 1983, Bro. George paid two more visits to Guyana. He left St. Lucia for Guyana on May 10th and returned on the 16th and left again for Guyana on May 24th. During a press conference, the Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. John Compton said that he had to ban marches because "everytime certain people go to Libya they come back and stage a march, put it on video and send it to Libya and ask for further subvention." (THE "VOICE" Saturday May 25th 1983). That statement was never denied by those who organised the marches and visited Libya.

Bro. George left again on June 13th 1983, for an unknown destination and returned on June 24th. That same night, he had birthday party at his Camp on the Hill, in Bois D'Orange. By Monday 27th June it is alleged that he was paying all his outstanding bills. The "CRUSADER" was printed, and a few days later he bought a brand new van. He acknowledged in his "Lurch" article that he got funds when he wrote:

"The left was never made any secret about its gratitude over any help from progressive countries."

But immediately after, he began showing why he was a friend of Libya and why he wants to break links. He wrote:

"The nearest Libyan connection has been the Caribbean National Movement whose strong anti-imperialist position has forged a link between Libya and the Caribbean...Judging from the failure of the CNM to convene the People's Conference scheduled for July, it seems that the anticipated Libyan funding was not forthcoming. There may be a number of explanations for Libya's lack of generosity...but it may also be that the true Libyan objective is to continue its war with the US with Caribbean proxies as cannon-fodder, when it found out that the CNM wanted nothing to do with terrorism, Libya turned the tap off."

To Bro. George, links with Libya were not based on the "principles of anti-imperialism," but what he could get out of it. That is why he wrote in his "Lurch" article:

"It is clear that the Caribbean left is paying a high political price for its Libyan links without securing a real return in terms of value to the leftist struggle in the Caribbean."

The real surprise came when he continued:

"The perception has gained ground that the left is willing to play terrorist games for financial benefit... And all the more so when the games concerned appear to have nothing to do with Caribbean realities, but are merely the unwanted importation into the region of a quarrel between two non-Caribbean countries namely Libya and the United States."

I am sure that if Glen Long read the above quote in a U.S. newspaper, he might want to bet his Visa that it was first printed in "THE VOICE" and not written by Bro. George.

But the opportunism in this statement can best be explained by two incidents:

- (1) The attempt to train young St. Lucians in 'God knows what' in Libya.

- (2) The CNM Press Conferences held in Barbados after the US bombing raids on Libya to announce the People's Conference.

When Bro. George returned to St. Lucia on June 24th 1983, he held a meeting with his so-called "Students" on June 28th, to discuss "going for training." At another meeting held with twenty-six of them, two days later, he informed the students that they would be going to Libya, via Martinique and Paris. The tickets arrived at M&C (agents for Air France) on July 7th 1983. At a meeting with the female students on July 9th 1983, there was some confusion because the "ladies of the revolution" were saying that the "secret venture" was public knowledge. At the general meeting of "Students" held the following day, they were informed that the main "cover" would be scholarships, and that all travel documents should be at "Headquarters" by the 14th July.

What followed is well known, but before the Prime Minister addressed the nation on the "Threat to our National Security" on July 22nd, it is alleged that somebody high up in government called Bro. George to ask him to call off the trip.

Even after the Prime Minister addressed the nation on the issue he went ahead, only to have the passports of the students seized.

From this incident, is it true or false that:

- (1) He agreed to having St. Lucians trained for the Colonel's Rapid Development Force.
- (2) That he contributed to the "perception" that he was prepared to "play terrorist games for financial benefit."
- (3) That he was prepared to be "cannon fodder" in the "quarrel between two non-Caribbean countries, namely Libya and United States."
- (4) He used St. Lucia youth for his personal gains.

After the US bombing raids on Libya earlier this year, Bro. George and his group held public meetings and used the "Crusader" extensively to attack the US Government. Even "THE VOICE" and "Robert Lee" were attacked for being what Nicholas,

Long, and Bro. George saw as being "stooges of the US." Bro. George even went as far as having Rosalie Douglas to address a pro-Libyan Rally on the Market Steps, in violation of the Public Order Act. It is alleged that he did that hoping that Rosalie would be arrested, so that it could be reported that "CNM member deported from St. Lucia after addressing pro-Libyan Rally." That failed, since our security forces were smart enough not to respond. If the security forces had moved on Rosalie, that would have justified getting more money from the Colonel.

So when, after all what he did from 1982-1986, Bro. George wrote his "I am in the Lurch" he can't fool St. Lucians. My main concern is that he has drawn St. Lucians into a very serious conflict with the Libyan government. I say St. Lucians because, when the Libyans come for their money, I am hoping that innocent people will not get hurt by "Libyans terrorists."

We must be careful because only recently Libyan planes were bombing the forces of Goukhouni Oueddei in Northern Chad, because Oueddei wants peace with the government of Hissen Habre, while the Colonel wants war. So please Bro. George, it's too late to turn your back on the Colonel now!

It was not the "creator of Centrist Parties" that made us leave the PLP but one disagreement with the way you handled the "Libyan Link."

Former PLP

/9317
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CENTRAL BANK REPORTS ON TRADE WITH CARICOM

Bridgetown DAILY NATION in English 29 Dec 86 p 24

[Text]

BARBADOS RECORDED
a \$54.4 million trade deficit with its 11 trading partners in the Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM) during the first seven months of this year, according to a Central Bank report.

The bank's publication showed total imports amounted to \$86.3 million, while total domestic exports were valued at \$31.9 million.

The deficit is marginally below last year's figure of \$56.3 million.

Exports to Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Guyana and St. Lucia, the island's leading trading partner from the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), were down on January to July last year.

Exports to Trinidad and Tobago declined to \$10.7 million, from \$17.1 million last year. Barbados exported goods valued at \$3.3 million to Jamaica (down from \$5 million) and

\$732 000 to Guyana (a drop from \$1.2 million), while exports to St. Lucia were down at \$4.9 million from \$4.4 million in 1985.

Exports to the 11 Caribbean states declined from \$38.6 million for the January - July period last year to \$31.9 million.

Total imports were down, but the difference was \$8.7 million. Imports for the first seven months of last year amounted to \$94.9 million compared with \$86.3 million this year.

Imports from Jamaica, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and St. Lucia dropped.

Imports from Jamaica dipped from \$17.4 million last year to \$13.5 million.

Barbados imported \$3.2 million in goods from Guyana this year, as against \$3.3 million last year, while imports from Trinidad and Tobago dipped to \$63.5 million compared with \$67.8 million in 1985.

St. Lucia sold Barbados \$2.3 million, while last year's figure was \$2.6 million.

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MINING COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH FRG

La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 7 Dec 86 pp 5,6

[Text] The government, through the minister of mining and metallurgy, recently signed a new 2-year aid agreement with the Mining Cooperation Group of the Federal Republic of Germany, revealed the minister of this sector, Dr Jaime Villalobos.

At the ceremony marking the 7th anniversary of the Group and the celebration of the festival of the miners' patron saint, Santa Barbara, the executive director of the Mining Cooperation Group, Mr Paul, presented a detailed report on the following projects that have been carried out:

Copacabana Coal Project, Coal: The tests conducted in Germany revealed that the samples had high coal (anthracite) contents. The production of a few thousand tons would have been very significant for Karachipampa and Vinto, but the local peasants' opposition prevented further development of this project.

Totoral, Tin: Work was hindered by the frequent work stoppages caused by intervention in the mining sector. Despite these difficulties, however, approximately 600 meters has been cut in recent years.

Otilia, Tin: A considerable reserve of this mineral has been developed, with outstanding values at the time when exploration work was completed.

San Lorenzo, Lead, Silver, Zinc: So far about 70,000 tons has been obtained, with a high content of these minerals; the project has been declared a partial success.

San Matias, Lead, Silver, Zinc: A shaft will be deepened in order to generate reserves in this deposit.

Candelaria Santa Isabel, Lead, Silver, Zinc, Tin: Work is being done on three levels. So far a large number of reserves with high contents of tin, silver, and complex minerals of lead, silver, and zinc have been developed. The separation of this mineral is under study.

Molleterio, Gold: An 800-meter gallery has been completed, and chimneys are being made to find an old channel.

Rinconada, Gold: An electric hoisting engine has been installed, and soon a shaft will be deepened.

During this term, the Mining Cooperation Group has developed 1,700 meters on the above-mentioned projects, thus meeting its obligations under the Bilateral Agreement.

After analyzing this work and noting the need for cooperation, the governments of Bolivia and FRG have signed the latest extension of the pact, which will now last until March 1990.

Great expectations have been raised in the mining sector as a result of this work. Andacaba, Constancia, and Renacimiento, as well as major deposits for Karachipampa and the mining cooperatives of Tipuani, are cited as examples. Because of the high taxes that must be paid to carry out these projects in the National Mining Exploration Fund, however, they are still waiting to begin.

The representative of the Mining Cooperation Group took the opportunity to ask the government, through Mining Minister Jaime Villalobos, to look for practical solutions to stimulate Bolivian mining.

Karachipampa a Reality

In addition, Mr Paul reported that the Group feels that the cooperatives of Potosi can provide considerable support, along with the small-scale miners of this region, to feed the Polymetallurgical Plant of Karachipampa.

In recognition of this fact, the FRG government is looking into the possibility of providing machinery and technical assistance for these deposits.

A request was also submitted to the German government, through its ambassador, Dr Saumweber, to help promote this project with its good offices.

8926
CSO: 3348/158

AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION WITH ISRAEL TO BE EXPANDED

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 9 Dec 86 p 5

[Text] Cochabamba, 8 December--Israeli Ambassador Missin Itzhak stated that his government is interested in cooperating with Bolivia in its agricultural development.

In statements to PRESENCIA upon his arrival in this city, he indicated that Israel has a long tradition of cooperating with our country, but there are possibilities for expanding it.

He asserted that he would like to crystallize some plans in the area of integral regional development, especially in the execution of advanced, computerized agricultural technology programs.

In this field, he stated, Israel has vast experience in several different countries with prospects for improving their agricultural development plans and projects.

In the case of Cochabamba, he said, irrigation programs are planned because this is one of the principal problems of the region. "It is in this field that we can make a contribution," he stated.

He indicated that in other countries advanced irrigation technology is being used to improve lands with this type of problem.

In this case, according to his statement, he will talk with the appropriate authorities to study the possibility of carrying out a plan to meet Cochabamba's expectations.

The ambassador announced that during his stay in this city, he will meet with representatives of the Regional Development Corporation (CORDECO) to study the department's requirements and needs, so that he can then engage in the corresponding consultations with his government.

"We want to have an exchange of ideas, consult with each other, and talk a little about our possibilities, since Cochabamba is a beautiful land that deserves our attention. We are willing to cooperate with the authorities," he declared.

Itzhak announced that he has scheduled future visits throughout the nation in order to determine exactly what development agencies need and require, because Israel has traditionally cooperated with Bolivia.

"Upon my arrival, I visited President Paz to invite him to visit Israel so that we can strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two nations. Mutual aid between Bolivia and Israel is a longstanding tradition," he pointed out.

Ambassador Missin Itzhak was declared an "illustrious guest" of this city in a ceremony held at noon today in City Hall.

This afternoon he began his visits to agricultural holdings in the valley, and during his tour he met with officials and technicians of CORDECO and other development agencies.

8926

CSO: 3348/158

GOVERNMENT UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURE STANDS AT 20 PERCENT

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 2 Dec 86 p 1

[Text] This year 42,000 workers lost their jobs as a result of the personnel adjustments and spending cuts required in the public and private sectors, reported the Center for Employment Studies (CET), a nongovernment organization that is sponsored by the Latin American Social Research Institute.

There are no official statistics on the number of people put out of work this year, but the government projected the 1986 unemployment figure at 20 percent. Other agencies, such as the Confederation of Private Businessmen, agree with this estimate.

The 1986 unemployment rate does not include the so-called "hidden unemployment" of the large number of Bolivians involved in activities in the informal economy: retail trade, contraband, etc.

The jobless figures for the last 5 years, which have been kept in PRESENCIA's files and are based on data from the Bolivian College of Economic Sciences, are as follows:

In 1980, unemployment reached 5.7 percent; the following year it climbed to 7.4 percent, and in 1982, 9.8 percent.

In 1983, the jobless rate in Bolivia amounted to 11.27 percent a year; in 1984, it was 16 percent; in 1985, 18 percent.

In the first 3 years of the aforementioned 5-year period, unemployment rose by just over 2 percent, but the deterioration began to accelerate in 1984, when the figure climbed to 16 percent, 4 points higher than in 1983.

Economists have an explanation for the performance between 1982 and 1984. The former president of the Bolivian College of Economic Sciences, Rolando Morales, asserted that "the results of the economic policy approved by the government of Hernan Siles Zuazo revealed that it was not capable of bringing down the budget deficit or slowing the rate of inflation, and that it allowed production and employment to decline steadily."

Rolando Morales predicted that in 1986, the jobless figure will reach heights no one ever thought possible as a consequence of the government's economic policy. This policy calls for massive lay-offs in the public administration and production sectors, especially in mining.

Rate to Double

The ministers in the economic sphere and professionals in this sector who are not linked to the government all agree that the unemployment rate will double in 1987 if the "economic reactivation plan" does not get underway.

Finance Minister Juan Cariaga argued that "\$500 million is needed to execute the reactivation plan and to bring down the budget deficit, inflation, and the jobless rate."

These resources come from abroad. They have been promised by international organizations and governments, but so far they have not been disbursed.

Government officials are now in Paris at the meeting of the group of World Bank financers, trying to negotiate "support for this reactivation plan and for the so-called Emergency Plan that is designed to create new jobs," stated official spokesmen.

8926

CSO: 3348/158

EMIGRES TO UPPER BENI REPORTEDLY ACHIEVE ECONOMIC SUCCESS

La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 6 Dec 86 p 2

[Commentary by Jose Taboada Calderon de la Barca]

[Text] Each of the various countries of the world, when looked at individually, is better than the others at producing goods in one or more sectors of the economy. This comparative advantage which sets one country off from the others is the basic economic law that must be observed by a nation that prides itself on its work for the good of its citizens. This concept has been grasped by the countries that today enjoy solid economies, healthy and stable currencies.

Ignoring that economic premise in scheduling the production of goods leads to the squandering of capital and labor, and this, by its very nature, causes a deficit in the balance of payments. When there are constant deficits of this type, the Net International Reserves hover around zero, and the buying power of the currency is pulverized.

For these reasons, any boom or bust experienced by a country at a given moment is the result of the proper or improper use its citizens have made of the resources they have available, financed internally or externally. If these resources are used in the development of sectors in areas of high potential, the result has to be positive; if the resources are squandered, on the other hand, by underwriting activities that show no promise of profit in regions of marginal potential, the result will be negative.

It should also be noted that, by the same token that the waste of capital and labor ultimately increases a country's foreign debt, if the misspent resources come from foreign credit, it is also clear that producing goods in high-potential areas and sending them to consumer markets entails a comparative advantage over products from marginal areas, and vested interests are prevented from imposing their anti-economic criteria, economic laws notwithstanding.

Eloquent proof that the laws regulating the production of goods in the world take precedence over the will of man can be found in the case of the La Paz district of Upper Beni. This region, which did not receive the preferential financial treatment the state meted out to other districts in the country, has

entered a phase of burgeoning economic development thanks to the comparative advantage offered by its fertile soil for the production of sugarcane, rice, cacao, corn, oleaginous seeds, beans, tubers, legumes, vegetables, citrus, mangoes, avocado pears, watermelon, and chicharrilla. The latter product, unique to this area, will soon overtake beef, given its high protein and fat content and its low cost; beef has become a luxury item for much of the Bolivian population.

Upper Beni's proximity (253 km) to the city of La Paz, which is the largest consumer market in Bolivia, and the incomparable per-hectare yield of its arable land, have been key factors in the strong flow of spontaneous migration toward that area in recent years, without state cooperation.

The thousands of settlers who have come on their own to this land of promise are showing with their fruitful labors how rich this land is. The products of various sectors will soon be sold on the international market at spectacular prices, to the benefit of the Bolivian balance of payments.

In May of this year, the colony known as "9 April," made up of former employees of the Bolivar Mine, scraped together the funds to move to this land of paradise. Bereft of all support, these workers had to face many difficulties before settling in the beautiful region of Inicua.

We accompanied them as they jumped from the frying pan to the fire, with the limited food we had available. There was a great desire to prevent them from settling here, and some people even went as far as resorting to armed confrontation to intimidate this brave group of miners, but to no avail.

It should be noted, in connection with this settlement of miners, is that the "9 April" colony went to Upper Beni armed with a complete economic plan, and with the technical-sanitation support of volunteer professionals in the fields of economics, agronomy, medicine, and nursing. Each of us contributed according to our specialty, without receiving any remuneration whatsoever. And soon this group will make a contribution to the gross national product with substantial quantities of food, much of it marketable beyond our borders.

To the delight of this colony, in recent days the National Settlement Institute (INC) and the Development Corporation of La Paz (CORDEPAZ) joined the herculean effort that this valiant group is carrying out. The former provided a tractor, and CORDEPAZ, in brief, will repair the tractor and then begin building the 35-km stretch of highway linking Inicua and "Fortress 9 April." Finally, to complete the joy of the colony, the National Employment Committee intervened with its good offices to persuade the OFINAAL to provide a large supply of food. Part of that food has already been purchased by the mining group with its own funds. This supply of food ensures that production will proceed as scheduled for the 1986-1987 agricultural season. For this purpose, the former employees of the Bolivar Mine prepared several dozen hectares for planting yucca, corn, bananas, beans, rice, and sesame.

What happened in the district of Upper Beni with the "9 April" colony is an indication of how much the state can do in the area of internal migration if it lends a modicum of financial support to the INC. If this state entity does

not have the funds, it can do little or nothing to promote migration toward the vast settlement zones that the country possesses.

In conclusion, I would like to pay sincere tribute to the Bolivian miners who, in Upper Beni, after overcoming a series of problems that at first blush appeared insurmountable, are proving that in the rural sector as well, they can contribute to our country's economic growth. I would also like to extend my acknowledgement to the handful of professionals who went up into the mountains to contribute their grain of sand so that the "9 April" colony would not fail. And my condolences go to those who, cloaked in anonymity as in the case of Cascada, made our lives impossible in an effort to prevent the fruition of this La Paz project, which is threatening to vested interests. Residents of La Paz: Economic development has begun in your area. Support it.

8926
CSO: 3348/157

BOLIVIA

SMALL MINERS CLAIM ENDE DEMANDS FOR PAYMENT UNJUST

La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 9 Dec 86 p 5

[Text] The high cost of the electrical current that is being sold to the small-scale mining sector is enabling the National Electricity Enterprise (ENDE) to reap millions of pesos in profits, revealed the National Mining Chamber.

ENDE, which is the seller, has imposed its own conditions and demands so vertically and so unfairly that small-scale miners now face debts in the millions for this item.

Dollars

The contracts imposed by ENDE contain so many obligations for the customer that the latter is virtually electrocuted in the short term. In fact, these contracts even require payment in U.S. currency (Clause 9), in violation of all legal provisions in effect today.

A sum of \$5.20 must be paid for every kilowatt during peak demand, as well as a surcharge of \$0.0195 per kilowatt-hour. In addition, there are other surcharges, including a 1-percent fee for outlets more than 20 kilometers away.

Inefficiency at ENDE

According to the National Mining Chamber, ENDE's inefficiency adds to the burden already borne by a production sector that is grappling with one of the worst crises it has ever faced. This crisis is being caused by both external factors (depressed market, very low prices) and internal ones (the economic crisis), while the electricity enterprise amasses profits at the expense of this weakened sector.

Billing

Proof of this economic leeching, which is being done to all mining firms that buy energy from ENDE, are the following bills released by the small-scale miners:

The bills for October 1985 to June of this year (10 months), plus a debt from 2 months (September and October 1984), come to a total of \$30,687. There is another bill for 15 liters of oil for a transformer, 15 wire fuses, 12 palm posts, and the cost of repairing a transformer. The two figures add up to a total of \$41,392, which the firm in question must pay to the National Electricity Enterprise for the aforementioned items.

Solution Needed

The worst thing about all this is that because of the contract for current, the National Electricity Enterprise is charging the mines that are shut down \$2,420 a month for electricity they do not use. This is arbitrary, unjust, and abusive.

A solution must be found to do away with this onerous situation, claims the National Mining Chamber, because under the present circumstances small-scale miners will have to work just to pay their bills to ENDE. Maybe they should obtain additional funding just to meet that obligation.

For some time now, the National Mining Chamber has been calling insistently for a change in this anachronistic billing system, but so far no favorable response has been forthcoming.

8926
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NEW BANK TO ADMINISTER DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 9 Dec 86 p 7

[Text] The government will create a new banking entity to administer development loans and to channel resources toward the production sector, reported the acting president of the Central Bank, Jaime Escobar, yesterday.

He said that to implement this plan, the executive branch will appoint a commission, to be made up of representatives of the Central Bank of Bolivia, the Agricultural Bank, and the Bank of the State.

This commission will conduct the studies and establish the guidelines for the operation of the "new development promotion entity."

The opening of a new banking institution is one of the provisions of the plan to restructure the Central Bank, which was proposed by Escobar and the regular president of this entity, Javier Nogales. Nogales is traveling abroad on official business.

The project in question has aroused the opposition of the National Confederation of Bank Workers of Bolivia, which has called a state of emergency for this reason. It has also prompted criticism and comments from former ministers and from the College of Professional Economists of Bolivia. The latter organization stated that the restructuring of the Central Bank should be carried out in accordance with the Organic Law of the Central Bank and other legal provisions that recognize its regulatory role.

Jaime Escobar stated yesterday that "the Central Bank of Bolivia should devote itself to the specific tasks of central banking, eliminating the regulatory and development functions."

Regulation and development, in Escobar's opinion, should be carried out "through other institutions such as the National Superintendency of Banks and a new state entity that will be established to undertake activities for promoting and extending credit to the production sector."

According to opponents of the official restructuring plan, the government is trying to transfer control of fiscal accounts and the administration of refinancing credit to the national private banking sector.

"The restructuring of the Central Bank," said the interim president of that entity yesterday, "will be broadly debated in a national debate-forum that will be convened shortly by the economic committee of the National Congress."

The announcement was made after the executives of the Central Bank were summoned by the legislature's economic committee to explain the features and background of the restructuring.

8926
CSO: 3348/158

BOLIVIA

BRIEFS

ITALIAN FINANCING--Cochabamba, 9 December--The Italian Government approved financing for the first part of the new airport to be built in this city. The approval of the Federal Aviation Administration was received from the United States, giving the green light for the finished project, which was presented by the Executive Unit. This unit reported that the Italian Government is now willing to make the first outlay of \$19 million to finance the construction of a new east-west landing strip, which will be 3,800 meters long. In addition, it has been learned that the Bolivian Government will contribute \$3 million as its share in exchange for the Italian loan. The Executive Unit, in accordance with government regulations and on orders from the minister of coordination and planning, submitted the studies to the Federal Aviation Administration, the top air navigation agency in the United States. This agency has issued a favorable report, noting that those studies agree with commercial air navigation standards. The airport to be built may accomodate Boeing 707-300Cs, 727 A-200s, 747 jumbo jets, and Loket 1011-385s. Sources also report that the airport's landing strip has a minimum length of 12,464 feet, equal to 3,800 meters, as set forth in the studies of the runway. The first phase of the study covers the construction of the new landing strip, and the diversion and piping of the Rocha River, for which purpose the studies were done to determine the highest and lowest flows of the last 10 years. [Text] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 10 Dec 86 p 3] 8926

VUELTA GRANDE PROJECT--With an investment of \$82 million in the Vuelta Grande Oilfield, in the department of Chuquisaca, next January the execution of this project will officially begin with bidding on civil construction projects, services, and the purchase of materials. The announcement states that officials are waiting for the executive branch to promulgate the supreme decree authorizing Bolivian Government Oil Deposits (YPFB) to subrogate the World Bank loan contract for \$15 million intended to finance Vuelta Grande. Previously, by means of Law No 895 of 10 November 1986, the legislature had approved the agreement that was to be signed with the World Bank. At present, YPFB authorities and their counterparts at the international financing organization are studying all the documentation related to this project (Law No 895, legal opinion of the attorney general, and another from YPFB), and are awaiting the issuance of the aforementioned supreme decree. Of the total of \$82 million to be used at Vuelta Grande, YPFB has paid out advances totaling \$42 million for preliminary projects; the World Bank will provide \$15 million, and the remainder will come from the BOLARG (Bolivian-Argentine) pact, said

Sainz. Once the documents are approved by the World Bank, that entity will make the first disbursement. It is expected to arrive in the next few days, said the official. The Vuelta Grande Oilfield is becoming a center of development for the department of Chuquisaca, and a source of revenues for the country. It also is one of the largest deposits belonging to the country's petroleum enterprise, and will allow for the expansion of production of crude oil and condensate, Sainz concluded. [Text] [La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 8 Dec 86 p 1] 8926

MEAT EXPORTS UNDER CONSIDERATION—Santa Cruz—In the first 8 months of this year (January to August), the population of Santa Cruz has consumed more than 12,291,368 kilos of beef, equivalent to approximately 68,258 slaughtered cattle. These figures were obtained by EL DIARIO from the municipal slaughterhouse, and give a clear idea of production and consumption of this staple product. It should be noted here that our citizens consume quite a bit of beef for two reasons: custom, and facilities provided for its purchase. In addition, the market is expanding increasingly, and there are promising possibilities for export. To meet the growing demand for beef, cattlemen are building a high-technology slaughterhouse-packing plant that will enable them to place select meat on the national market for a variety of prices. This will broaden the market. In addition, Santa Cruz ranchers are about to enter the international meat market. In this connection, they have received meat orders from Peru, Chile, Brazil, and other places, and they do not intend to pass up this opportunity to open up a new area of nontraditional exports. These exports would benefit both the Bolivian state (foreign exchange, sources of employment, etc.) and the cattlemen themselves, with more and better economic revenues. Raising livestock is a traditional activity in Santa Cruz; since the Jesuits arrived with the Spanish conquistadores, vast pasturelands have been developed for raising cattle. The herd is gradually being improved with the introduction of better breeds. [Text] [La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 7 Dec 86 p 12] 8926

MACA INVESTMENT PLAN--The Ministry of Peasant and Agriculture-Livestock Affairs (MACA) is to play a leading role in agrarian activities through measures aimed at improving and conserving soils and renewable natural resources, which constitute the national patrimony; the formulation of policies oriented toward the development of production; the supply of food and raw materials for mass production for the national population, in particular; and exports aimed at generating foreign exchange. This was revealed by the minister of this sector, Edil Sandoval Moron. He emphasized that to meet these objectives, MACA has specialized technical divisions, decentralized institutions, and specific projects designed to meet the needs of the national agriculture-livestock sector and to ensure food production, given the food shortage and the economic recession that the country faces as a result of the fall in tin and petroleum prices. Expressing his opinion on the importance of the meeting on food security that will be held in the city of Potosi, Sandoval Moron stated that MACA is now obliged to make a tremendous effort to close the gap between current know-how and native farmers. The latter, who have inherited an advanced cultural legacy and a great deal of wealth in the agricultural field, unfortunately are still living about 500 years in the past. This situation is aggravated considerably by the preeminence of mining activity in our economy. "Thus, the technological improvement of the

agriculture-livestock sector has been neglected to the point that it is extremely weak. As a result, a maximum effort will be required on the part of all Bolivians to ensure the development of a healthy and vigorous nation." He also announced that the overall policy and investment plan for the 1987-1990 period will require approximately \$700 million for the proposed 5-year period. [Text] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 10 Dec 86 p 8] 8926

ARMED FORCES BUDGET UNCHANGED—The 1987 budget for the Armed Forces was not increased, reported National Defense Minister Luis Fernando Valle yesterday. Dr Valle made this statement during the ceremony marking the 15th anniversary of the founding of Armored Battalion No 1, "Tarapaca," which is stationed in El Alto. "The 1987 Armed Forces budget, which was submitted to the executive branch and the legislature for consideration, is designed to meet the minimum requirements of the Armed Forces. It is similar to that of last year, that is, with the 56-percent cut. In other words, there was no increase, and the budget is being studied by the highest officials of the government," said Valle Quevedo. The government official indicated that the matter of the mining of semiprecious stones in La Gaiba is being studied thoroughly, and the next step will be to begin mining. "There are two objectives: The first is the development aspect, and the second is related to national security, taking into consideration that the area is inaccessible and is on the Brazilian border," said Valle Quevedo. Then he added, "The Santa Cruz Regional Development Corporation (CORDECRUZ) and the Armed Forces National Development Corporation (COFADENA) have a pact to exploit the resources of Rincon del Tigre, Anahi, and La Gaiba, and it will be implemented in the next few months," said Valle Quevedo. The minister of national defense also reported that the General Assignments Order will be released on the 20th of this month, while the Order of Armed Forces Promotions will be issued on the 24th of this month, based on the reports from the Commands of the Army, the Bolivian Air Force (FAB), and the Bolivian Navy. [Text] [La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 6 Dec 86 p 5] 8926

CSO: 3348/157

FRENCH SPACE OFFICIAL VISITS WITH TECHNICIANS

PY200306 Paris AFP in Spanish 1738 GMT 17 Jan 87

[Text] Cayenne, 17 January (AFP)--The director of the Guiana Space Center [CEG] Andre Remondiere, and local officials of the European Space Agency and the Ariane Space, have visited with Brazilian space technicians for 1 week.

The opening of the European Space Center exposition in Kuru on 10 January 1987 has given Remondiere an opportunity to express to the press his satisfaction with the productive relations with Brazil in the space research field.

Remondiere wanted to see the Natal base up close. It is the first tracking station overflowed by rockets that take off from Kuru. The functioning of the natal base is perfect, as is the preparation of our Brazilian colleagues, who are highly efficient, he stated.

The delegation that arrived from Kuru is very interested in the work of the Brazilian space technicians. According to the CEG director, the technicians have thoroughly learned everything about a space flight.

Thus, provided there are no unforeseen problems, the Brazilian technicians will be able to carry out the space program at the new test center at Sao Jose dos Campos, which is as complete as any of the French centers in Paris.

A slight delay in the manufacture of the Space Launching Vehicles [LVS] device will be compensated for between now and 1989. As far as the future Alcantara base (Maranhao state) is concerned, the call for bids for the civil engineering work has already been made.

Remondiere has taken advantage of his first trip to Brazil to revise official contracts with Brazilian officials regarding the use of Natal as the first tracking station for future launchings from Kuru.

He added that Brazil receives technical assistance from certain French organizations in the development of its satellite launching vehicle, and that other organizations are supplying Brazil with material for the construction of the Alcantara base.

Referring to the next launching from Kuru, Mondiere stated that the tests of the third stage of the rocket, which are being conducted in Paris, are in the advanced stage.

The training to operate the CEG base is conducted in Kuru. The second stage of the training, which ended in mid-December 1986 was satisfactory, and the third stage will end in mid-February 1987. Then, we will be ready to begin preparations for launching the rocket that is scheduled to put in orbit the Aussat, the Australian Telecommunications Satellite, and the ECS (European Communications Satellite), Remondiere stated.

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CSO: 3342/60

ARMY MINISTER STRESSES NEED FOR NATIONAL SECURITY

PY192346 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] The army wants to continue doing what it has always been doing. It wants the Constituent Assembly to include the national security issue in its deliberations.

Army Minister Leonidas Pires Goncalves today participated in a luncheon given by Sao Paulo Governor Franco Montoro at Bandeirantes Palace, in honor of General Ivan Linhares, the new commander of the Southeastern Military Region.

At the end of the meeting, the army minister told reporters that the situation in the country is normal, and that there is no reason for pessimism in this growing and bold country. He also talked about what the army expects from the National Constituent Assembly.

[Begin Pires recording] We hope that the Constituent Assembly will consider all aspects of our activity. We want it to consider the national security issue in accordance with our tradition. More than that, we want national security problems to be considered, because I will never stop saying that national security is not an ideology. It is a concept that all countries desire. It represents peace. It represents domestic peace, and peace for those who want to work. [end recording]

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CSO: 3342/60

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

DECREE ON INDIAN-SQUATTER CONFLICT--The conflict between squatters and Chacriabas Indians in Minas Gerais will end. The 120 families occupying the Indian reservation will be transferred to the Ressaca Farm, in the town of Manga. The farm where the squatters will be sent was expropriated last week in a decree signed by President Sarney. This year, Incra [National Institute of Land Reform and Settlement] will expropriate approximately 600,000 hectares of land in Ceara state. According to regional superintendent Edson Teofilo, 10,000 families will benefit. [Text] [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 19 Jan 87 PY] /12232

SATELLITE-LAUNCHING CENTER IN ALCANTARA--The launching of satellites will bring serious changes to historical Alcantara, Maranhao state, between now and January 1989, when the first national satellite will be launched, the center will experience several changes. This is the result of an agreement signed 2 years ago to prepare the city for the establishment of the satellite-launching center. The Historic Patrimony Secretariat and the National [word indistinct] have been working together to save the historical center of the municipality and to prevent speculation in the real estate sector. [Text] [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 20 Jan 87 PY] /12232

CSO: 3342/60

LUIS CORVALAN: INSURGENCY NOT NEW TO COMMUNISTS

Santiago ERCILLA in Spanish 10-16 Dec 86 pp 14-15

[Text] Short and skinny, his old profile intact, 70-year old Luis Corvalan, the secretary general of the Communist Party of Chile (PC), received the "Order of October" last September in Moscow. The Soviet Union decorated the Chilean leader in the carpeted corridors of the Kremlin for his merits and his sincere friendship with the Soviet Union. Strange reasons for awarding a prize, inasmuch as Corvalan established his residence in Moscow 10 years ago.

He argues, however, that the thousands of kilometers that separate him from his country are not a major impediment to "thinking about Chile." From his reflections has allegedly emerged what everyone is calling the new strategy of the Communist Party of Chile: the path of insurrection or armed rebellion that has been the inspiration for and has characterized the group's actions and thinking in the 1980's.

Nevertheless, there is nothing new or original about the strategy that Corvalan eagerly divulges. We need only read what Lenin wrote at the turn of the century: "He who does not prepare for violence must be tossed pitilessly from the ranks of the partisans of the revolution."

Moreover, just by looking at how the Communist Party of Chile itself has evolved, we can see that it adopted the strategy long ago.

Around the turn of the century. In the thick of the so-called "social question," the Socialist Workers Party decided to become the Chilean section of the Communist International.

Imbued with the euphoria of their triumph in the Soviet Union, they rushed to spread the revolution all over the world. The Communist Party of Chile obviously expressed from the beginning its blind adherence to Marxist-Leninist doctrine. They tried to consolidate first within union and social organizations, taking advantage of the economic crisis in 1930.

As far back as the 1927 Congress the party charted a course that it was to pursue almost without change over time. It decided to take the plunge into the revolutionary struggle, "heightening its process of Bolshevikization." Its unsuccessful performance at the ballot box merely underscored the dictates of

its doctrine: violence and revolution, after which would come disorder and a challenge to the existing legal system.

It was President Gabriel Gonzalez Videla who opposed them most strongly. "The current leaders of the PC are wrong if they think that the president of the republic will be a tool of their designs," the chief executive warned the people threatening to make the country ungovernable through strikes and social unrest.

Gonzalez Videla then responded with the Law for the Permanent Defense of Democracy, which led to the PC's longest period in the underground. It was absent for years from the political arena but not from the various forms of social rebellion.

1956 was a crucial year for the communist movement. After the disappointment of not being able to achieve the inexorable revolution, the plenum of all Communist parties from around the world was forced to proclaim other ways of making changes. Luis Corvalan hastened to support these possibilities so as to thus facilitate his return to legal activity.

In 1958 he ran again, getting only 9.1 percent of the vote. The years had not passed in vain.

In spite of his statement of good intentions, his own words betrayed him. "We are not ruling out other forms of violence on a smaller scale, such as general strikes, the takeover of land, etc," he warned in 1961.

Two years later, when Eduardo Frei was victorious, the extreme revolutionary position spread among the ranks of communists. It was made quite evident by the formation of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR). Corvalan made a telling remark in this regard not long ago: "We paid special attention to the military training of party members starting in 1963...We managed to get about 1,000 activists who could handle different types of automatic weapons. Another 1,000 comrades had learned to use small arms...various forms of street struggle...we also managed to secure a limited amount of weapons."

Thus properly supplied, they went about supporting the presidential candidate who would make possible the Chilean road to socialism. The process was optimistically described as "irreversible." In 1972, a member of the PC technical commission, Sergio Ramos, asserted: "The conquest of political power necessarily entails the destruction of the Chilean Army and police."

They were caught unawares on 11 September 1973. "Everyone to his combat post," read the headline of the communist daily EL SIGLO that day.

Nevertheless, 1973 spelled not only the end of their agenda and legal existence but also the beginning of a slow internal breakup. Their mistakes became evident.

Volodia Teitelboim ran the PC until 1976, amid internal collapse. The rank and file leaderships were successively destroyed by the security organizations, as leader Manuel Chacon admitted to the press in 1979.

Corvalan took over again in 1976 with a strategy of desperately seeking unity with other forces. "If they don't want to travel in the same train as far as Puerto Montt, then at least do so as far as Chillan," cried Corvalan, arguing that "unity does not mean that anyone will have to renounce his principles."

He was not too successful. The government strengthened its hand, overcoming alleged differences of opinion. In the 1980 plebiscite the citizenry paid no heed to the utopian appeals. Teitelboim admitted later that the plebiscite dealt a harsh blow to the party's strategy. The country was no longer the same, and apparently there was no place for them either. Around that time various segments of the citizenry began asking themselves what could be done about communism. The government's response was clear: the constitution bans any act or group that espouses "doctrines that attack the family, advocate violence or a philosophy of government or legal order that is totalitarian or based on the class struggle."

The view most widespread among the various sectors was that communism does not belong in a system of political parties because it is a doctrine that is intrinsically opposed to such a system.

The circle was completed. In an interview with an Argentine weekly Corvalan said: "We are in the underground but not in the catacombs." Perhaps for this reason on 3 September 1980 he burned his last bridge behind him. In a speech in Moscow, Corvalan ushered in the stage of intense violence in the country.

Since then the orders have not ceased for sabotage, electric power cuts, downing high-tension towers, bombings of various kinds, and interference with radio and TV broadcasts. "All phases of the struggle must be mastered," the leader urged. The Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front was founded for this purpose in 1983; it consists of combat forces specializing in rallies, protests and struggles.

That year the press revealed the communist strategy of a national uprising. The strategy entailed gains for the methods of political and subversive struggle.

Nevertheless, the growing use of force was falling into discredit as an approach. The government's systematic reports of their plans, which the opposition did not take seriously at first, turned out to be completely true. The discovery of arsenals in August and the attack on the presidential party on 7 September heightened the awareness. Perhaps for this reason Corvalan has felt the need to acknowledge how isolated his party has become. Several political groups have spoken conclusively in this regard.

There are other problems as well. There are some 2,000 activists outside Chile, including 80 percent of the party leadership, "which cannot be improvised overnight." Moreover, its ties with sectors that it used to control exclusively have kept on deteriorating...When explaining the party's failure Corvalan turns enigmatic: "Differences of opinion that arose within certain components paralyzed their activities, momentarily encouraging centrifugal tendencies."

The trump card of violence, which they always played masterfully, is wearing thin, just like the figure of Corvalan. As a political scientist said, "he is a figure who is fading away as the country evolves."

The Communist Party of Chile: A History of Violence

Since it was formed 64 years ago, the Communist Party of Chile has pursued a policy of unconditional adherence to violence, disguised during certain periods only by its ostensible support for peace and conciliation, which has been a purely tactical ploy in its push for power. The following chronology is illustrative:

--January 1922: Luis Emilio Recabarren turns the Socialist Workers Party into a Moscow-affiliated Communist Party.

--The Congress of 1927: The PCCh decides to join fully in the revolutionary struggle, in accordance with Leninist praxis. To this end it turns its rank and file organization into a cell and abandons the assembly. The following year, it is accepted as a "sympathizing" member of the Communist International.

--1927: The PCCh is banned during the administration of President Carlos Ibanez del Campo. It goes underground.

--1932: It comes to public light again, sharply divided by internal feuding.

--The Congress of 1933: The PCCh reaffirms its revolutionary orthodoxy.

--3 September 1948: The Democracy Defense Law is enacted under the administration of Gabriel Gonzalez Videla; it bans the Communists, who remain in the underground as their influence in Chilean society wanes.

--The Congress of 1954: At its 10th Congress the PCCh proclaims that the revolution can be accomplished peacefully, though it does not completely rule out other forms of struggle.

--6 August 1958: The Democracy Defense Law is repealed.

--1971: Luis Corvalan declares that the process that began with the coming of Popular Unity to power should "become irreversible."

--June 1973: The PCCh decides to resume the path of insurrection.

--1976: Corvalan propounds his party's new strategy, which is designed to topple the Chilean Government.

--1979: The PCCh issues a document called "Our Democratic Agenda," in which it calls on other political forces to support this goal.

--September 1981: in Mexico City the PCCh and other leftwing parties sign an accord to join forces against the Chilean Government. Reaffirming his choice

of violence, Corvalan says: "We are in the first stage of a grassroots uprising, but for the time being we cannot foresee how or when it will end." He proclaimed this stage of intense violence before, in a speech in Moscow, calling it "the prospect of an uprising."

--July 1982: Corvalan and his party take responsibility for violence and sabotage in Chile as part of their policy of the grassroots rebellion.

--6 September 1983: First public press conference of the PCCh since 1973. It launches the slogan "Democracy now." Shortly thereafter the MDP [Popular Democratic Movement] is born; it is created as a political representative because the party has been isolated by its policy of insurrection, which it does not renounce.

--January 1985: Regular plenum of the PCCh. It issues a document reaffirming its policy of violence.

--1986: The attack on his excellency the president of the republic and the discovery of arsenals in the northern and central parts of the country reveal an unprecedented escalation of the PCCh's strategy to destabilize the country and take power through a social revolution.

8743
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COMMUNIST PARTY ORIENTATION DESCRIBED

Buenos Aires EL PERIODISTA in Spanish 19-25 Dec 86 p 15

[Commentary by Luis Guastavino; first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] A member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Chile (PCCh), a three-time national deputy (1965, 1969 and 1973) and president of the bloc of Communist deputies under the Popular Unity administration, Luis Guastavino, who is currently in exile, describes in these pages his party's current orientation and criticizes the tactics of the Chilean political Center.

As the concerted struggle against the regime of Augusto Pinochet was on the rise in August 1985, there appeared the National Accord, signed by the Center-Right opposition and excluding the MDP [Popular Democratic Movement].

Confusion and disappointment once again. Disarray in the social mobilization.

In October of that year, however, elections were held in the important Federation of Students of the University of Chile. The Center and the Left ran against each other. The Christian Democrat (DC) list was supposed to win easily, but the MDP secured clamorous backing. The Communists surged past 20 percent of the vote and practically tied the two lists. The rank and file decided that there would not be a second round of balloting, and a single governing body of the entire opposition was formed. Hopes and prospects were renewed. Concerted action was back.

There were spectacular gains in the first quarter of 1986. The entire opposition worked together. In April, the Civic Assembly was formed, without exclusions, issued Chile Demands and on 2 and 3 July conducted an impressive nationwide work stoppage such as had never been staged before.

The truth of what everyone had said was confirmed: the social mobilization, civil disobedience and making the country ungovernable for the tyrant could turn 1986 into a decisive year.

Once again, however, the United States brazenly intensified its interference in Chile by taking advantage of the vacillations of influential centrist democrats, and another political plan was set in motion. As of mid-July, DC

leaders tried to shatter the coordination that had been achieved, heightened their anticomunism and revived longtime pretexts. Later, echoing the dictatorship's huge orchestrated campaign, they made a big fuss about the "discoveries of arsenals" and the attack on Pinochet and played into the hands of the outside diversionists and their talk of "the transfer of the East-West conflict to Chile" and the "penetration" of Cuba and the USSR. Fierce persecution, particularly of the Communists, made it hard for them to clarify the distortions of their party's line and stands. It was all designed to thwart unity in the face of the "danger" of a solution in which the masses would play a leading role, and the arguments that certain centrist politicians used revealed how precarious their claim to be democrats was.

Thus, the Center-Right parties gradually forgot about the Provisional Government and the Constitutional Assembly. They no longer speak of "democracy now," of civil disobedience, of creating a state of ungovernability, of protests or work stoppages, not even about their own rallying cry of "active nonviolence." They have set aside Chile Demands and are seeking to put the Civic Assembly on ice.

The Democratic Alliance has shown that it is not in a hurry and has decided to wait until 1989. Onofre Jarpa (Pinochet's well-known Nazi former interior minister) and Sergio Molina, a prominent Christian Democrat and coordinator of the National Accord, have come to terms publicly. This is essentially the combination that in 1973 facilitated the 11 September coup.

What is going on? Haven't the DC and the other democratic groups learned anything, as they compromise with the people who are responsible for so many misfortunes in Chile, with the United States, with coup plotters and criminals, with the terrorist Pinochet or his representatives, but stubbornly refuse to come to terms or talk with the victims of these criminals?

They cannot dispense with the powerful MDP, which brings together the most combative sectors of workers, shantytown residents, women, young people and intellectuals, which is growing in prestige and whose "Agenda for an Advanced Democracy" is a rallying point for most of the Chilean working class.

Furthermore, it is not likely that they will all exhibit the sort of unequivocal devotion and loyalty to democracy that the PC has shown in Chile. The DC saw such exemplary communist conduct up close in 1969 when the time came to defend the constitutional democratic system that was represented by the administration of President Eduardo Frei, which was threatened by Roberto Viaux' coup.

Our policy has not changed; it has been confirmed and enriched. It is a well-known fact that it has penetrated broad segments of the masses. This is why Pinochet honors us with his morbid hatred.

We Communists are calling for the unity of the entire opposition. We are not in favor of the armed path. It is our policy that can avoid a civil war in Chile. To reduce our ideas to a military approach is a distorted simplification of our stands. Differences among the opposition can be overcome together if we think only about Chile, if no opposition force acts on

the dictates of outside interests and if genuine democratic convictions consistently prevail.

Communists, who have major differences with other opposition groups, are willing to examine any aspect of our policy with all democratic forces, because we must build a consensus and because an understanding must be achieved through a conscious recognition of ideological diversity. Far from taking an inflexible stance, we have shown our willingness to negotiate everything, the path and the methods of struggle, including the potential outcomes of the struggle, because the supreme democratic duty at present is to free Chile from Pinochet. We believe that this is an unassailable position.

The DC and the entire political Center are taking on a serious responsibility today. To reject a broad-based accord is to prolong the military coup and the existence of Pinochet and his regime, inasmuch as although they are calling for its end, they are not allowing the regime that can and must follow it to be born.

There will be no real democratic solution in Chile without or against the united Left. Just as there will be no such solution without or against the DC and the political Center.

Enough of the studied attempts to "isolate" the PC, which the recent university elections showed was not at all isolated. Enough of this making up "rifts" in the PCCh to confuse public opinion.

The time has come to nobly take the only path that the realities and interest of Chile demand: the social and political unity of all democrats against the dictatorship. The people of Chile cannot wait and from their afflictions and tragedy, from the rank and file of their organizations they will continue struggling to remove the barriers, as they have done before, and to clear the path towards victory.

8743
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CLOTARIO BLEST ON LABOR MOVEMENT

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 23 Dec 86 p C-3

[Text] Former labor leader Clotario Blest yesterday came out in favor of a Sole Central Organization of Workers, but one that is "independent of all political parties and based exclusively on the three great principles that ought to govern union life: freedom, justice and brotherhood.

He indicated this in an interview with EL MERCURIO at his home.

Blest, the founder of the CUT [Sole Central Organization of Workers], thus joined other labor leaders who have commented on the recent statements by the president of the CDT, Eduardo Ross, who indicated that sooner or later a Sole Central Organization is taken over by the communists.

He added that at its outset the CUT fought to improve the lot of the working class "without any distinction whatsoever as to the religion or politics of the working man."

"But after 10 years of my presidency, the Communist Party forced me to resign and then took over, after which they promoted political hucksterism inside our organization," he said.

He recalled that he himself had called on President Ibanez to repeal the Democracy Defense Law. "Some years later, Alessandri wanted to submit a bill reviving that law around the same time that we had announced a nationwide work stoppage. What happened was that the communists went to talk with him and asked him to withdraw the bill, in exchange for which they would not support the work stoppage. The movement failed, and I submitted my resignation. This was how the working class was split."

Clotario Blest added that from that time on political parties began taking over the CUT.

He said that "the time has not yet come to create a new CUT, because the working class is marked by political sectarianism, in which a party possesses the truth. The split is worse than what I saw, because now there are not just five or six parties. There are 20, and their leaders are always taking off to Europe to stroll around."

He felt that a CUT under the current government "is very unlikely" and that under a future democracy "it would be positive, but would have to be independent of all parties, because the labor movement cannot be subject to religious, political or any other restrictions, as the Greek origin of the term [sindicalismo] indicates."

Other Leaders

Meanwhile, leaders Hugo Estivales, Lamberto Perez, Aquiles Petit and Manuel Contreras also took stands on the issue yesterday.

Estivales indicated that he favored three or four central organizations and did not rule out the possibility that the Communist Party was behind the attempts to revive the CUT. "They are well organized and work in the underground and want to lead democrats like sheep towards their ideology," he said.

The president of the union of workers at the Bank of the State, Lamberto Perez, said concerning Rios' resignation that "I approve of his action, because he has finally understood that the labor movement is something more than just an errand boy for the political parties."

He indicated that "at this juncture we workers must further increase our power so that in a future democracy we can continue to talk directly to the government and to management."

When asked for his opinion about Rios' statement that sooner or later the Communist Party would take over a sole central organization, he voiced his total agreement with it. "The communists are much better organized and have no scruples about getting what they want," he commented.

8743

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REACTION TO MINISTER BUCHI'S ECONOMIC REPORT

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 25 Dec 86 p C-3

[Text] Minister Buchi's report on the state of the national economy, which agrees in several respects with the annual report of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), has prompted a variety of reactions from economists, businessmen and political leaders.

Both documents underscored the economy's five percent growth and the decline in unemployment. The ECLA report contends that our country "is almost back to where it was before the crisis," noting, however, that because of the increase in the population, per capita output is still eight percent lower than in 1980-1981.

The former assistant dean of the Department of Economic and Administrative Sciences of the University of Chile, Francisco Javier Labbe, termed the results that were outlined "conclusive."

He argued his case by indicating that it is hard to find another country whose economy has done better since the last stage of the recession.

Labbe emphasized that the most encouraging points in the minister's report were the rate of inflation (which he regarded as on target), the control of the budget deficit, the decline in unemployment, the larger than expected trade surplus and, above all, the shrinking of the foreign debt.

The economist contended that the latter development was extraordinarily encouraging because of how hard it is to grow while reducing the foreign debt.

"Another major success," he underscored, "is the confidence and stability that economic agents enjoy; this is another of the finance minister's accomplishments." He added that the criticisms of specific measures do not detract from the overall good results.

In this regard, Labbe scored the socialist economists who have come out against the sale of government enterprises to the private sector. "The gains outlined in the report on the condition of the economy contrast with the desire of these researchers to return to their obsolete opposition to privatization," he said.

He also talked about the recent ECLA annual report, which underscores the country's economic growth. "The ECLA document," he said, "acknowledges that our country is being run seriously and without demagoguery and is thus moving forward, even though it was the hardest hit by the recession," he commented.

He noted that the indicators cited by Minister Buchi also contrast with the situation in the other countries in this part of the continent, which have just begun the sort of period of adjustment that is already under way in Chile.

Ramon Briones

Ramon Briones, a Christian Democrat (DC) attorney and head of the DC Supervisory Commission, released a public statement in which he calls the minister's report a "partial view of reality."

"Minister Buchi," he says in his note, "submitted a report on government finances. Perhaps for this reason it does not address the overall economic situation, being just a macroeconomic accounting report. It is just an X-ray, showing that the country has merely managed to adjust its internal and external accounts by means of various financial devices. Thus, it is a partial view of reality that reveals the monetarist dogmatism of the economic team."

Briones also criticized the minister's call for lower consumption, calling it absurd inasmuch as a tax policy that he described as regressive was implemented during the year.

He states further on that the report neglects to mention the underlying situation, inasmuch as it has omitted developments such as the transfer of companies to foreign capitalists, the process of economic concentration, the expansion of foreign financial management in the country and the sale of public enterprises and valuable land [area rara].

The DC attorney said that although such a policy has not been confined to 1986, the significant thing is how hastily it is being pursued.

Nelson Radice

The president of Small and Medium Industry, Nelson Radice, also gave an assessment of the finance minister's report. He called it very "detailed."

He said that it makes a clear case for the recovery that can be noticed in the economy, with encouraging signs in the various sectors.

As for the five percent growth in the GDP, the business leader said that he hoped the rate would hold steady next year. His view is that to achieve this goal the funds for the current employment subsidies could be channeled into the production sectors, thus reducing unemployment.

Radice also talked about the annual ECLA report, which he said showed that the world clearly realizes that the country is moving steadily towards recovery. The ECLA report squares with the minister's account and highlights the outstanding aspects of economic policy," he went on to say.

Ricardo Lagos

Ricardo Lagos, an economist and leader of the Socialist Party, indicated that the ECLA report objectively reflects developments in the Chilean economy in comparison to the previous year.

He noted that the report only shows how far our economy fell, "as it has not yet been able to surpass the indices at the start of the decade."

He also contended that the annual ECLA reports do not provide an overview of a country's economic situation over a long period.

He stated that Chile's gross output and per capita production are still lower than they were in 1981.

He added that per capita consumption, which measures the ability of individuals to improve their living standard, is 18 points lower than in 1981.

He also said that there are 17 percent fewer goods available to the country in 1986 than there were 5 years before.

He explained that all of this background information is significant if we consider that the population has increased during the period.

Lagos thus argued that the numbers in the report do not mean that Chile is once again witnessing an "economic boom."

Maximiano Errazuriz

Maximiano Errazuriz, an attorney and leader of the Independent Democratic Union (UDI), contended that "we can argue about the facts but not against them."

"The figures that Minister Buchi released are based on the same parameters as always. I see no reason to doubt the figures when they reveal growth or when they show a drop like the 14 percent fall in our GDP in 1982," he stated.

Errazuriz said that the economic report represents not only a good picture of the current juncture "but also a film of what the Chilean economy will be like in the short, medium and long term."

With regard to the ECLA report, he indicated that no one can question the organization's seriousness or doubt that it has confirmed the numbers cited by Minister Buchi.

"Yet we do not need any international organization to applaud or criticize us," he added.

Sergio Diez

Sergio Diez, a former senator and former ambassador to the United Nations, underscored the growth of the Chilean economy, even though trade is down and the price of copper is one-third of what it was during Eduardo Frei's term, he said.

He thus felt that the condition of the national economy is encouraging, not only for the president or the economic team "but for all Chileans."

He added that the figures made public by both Minister Buchi and ECLA show that the country has made unquestionable progress.

Diez also contended that this performance is due fundamentally to the social marketplace economy.

He went on to emphasize that ECLA has acknowledged and highlighted Chile's economic accomplishments this year.

8743
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NUNEZ CRITICIZES POLITICAL MILITARIZATION, TERRORISM

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 30 Dec 86 p C-3

[Text] The secretary general of the Socialist Party of Chile, Ricardo Nunez, has strongly criticized the militarization of politics that the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary left] has encouraged and the terrorist activities that the self-styled Manuel Rodriguez Front has conducted.

In an open letter to leaders and activists of the Chilean Left that was drafted some days after the closed-door meeting on 14 December, Nunez says that "one cannot disregard, on the pretext that one is seeking accords that set differences aside, the objective militarization of politics represented by the MIR's actions and by the vast military plan that underlies the creation of the FMR and its string of actions, ranging from the kidnaping of children to indiscriminate bombings that at times claim innocent victims, to attacks on barracks and massive gunrunning."

He also states in this regard that "the use of all forms of struggle exposes the masses that are prepared to mobilize to end the regime, to the bloodiest repression, to futile losses and to more cohesive Armed Forces."

Further on, he indicates that those who promote forms of struggle that depend on small armed groups and that regard freedom and democracy as bourgeois, "those who radicalize and weaken the social mobilization, are not unifying the Left, much less unifying the people; they are dividing the Left and dividing the people."

"Hence our decision not to accept a false unity that would only prolong the people's defeat of 1973. To move forward, we need actions, specifically abandoning the mistaken, useless attempt to defeat the regime militarily and distancing ourselves from the armed groups that are its tool," he went on to say.

As for the large-scale gunrunning, he says that "this does matter to the Left that has chosen nonmilitarized social mobilization as a means of bringing forces together."

He states that "money aside, under present conditions in Chile the use of all forms of struggle perverts the social mobilization and prompts doubts as to the legitimacy of a given action."

"When a string of events confirm that a long-range military strategy is being pursued, we cannot remain indifferent to the renewed claims of 'self-defense,' which we understand in its military sense (with the technical capability to conduct actions)."

Referring to the difficulties in achieving unity across the opposition, the secretary general of the Socialist Party says in his letter that "a unified opposition has not been established because of the serious differences of opinion about the accord for a future democratic system and for the methods of confronting the regime."

"I want to point out very frankly that we have found the parties belonging to the MDP [Popular Democratic Movement], the PC [Communist Party] and the MIR in particular, to be the biggest obstacles on the Left to achieving an opposition consensus."

In addressing the issue of the Communist Party and the path of violence, Ricardo Nunez states that the absence of the political will needed to take the appropriate steps to isolate exclusionary, anticomunist stands "seems to me to stem from a seriously mistaken assessment by the PC and from a stated determination to take steps in the short run towards a political system other than representative democracy."

He asserts that "the PC feels that 'a revolutionary situation is unfolding rapidly' (report of the Central Committee to the plenum, January 1985), in light of which the only choice is to impose a 'democratic-people's' or 'advanced democratic' solution 'with a view towards socialism.'"

"The PC thus dismisses the recovery of representative democracy and the holding of elections as 'bourgeois democratic.' Moreover, it describes civil disobedience as characteristic of 'the petty bourgeoisie and professionals,'" he indicates.

He goes on to say that in line with the same policy "the PC has argued that only the prospect of a political-military defeat of the Armed Forces through a 'general uprising of the people' that will bring about 'the collapse' of the regime by means of 'the growing use of the people's revolutionary violence,' can give rise to the program to establish an 'advanced democratic' regime."

Nunez indicates that the Socialist Party of Chile regards this policy "as an obstacle that makes the building of a consensus impossible; consequently, we feel that along with the a priori exclusions that some centrist and rightwing groups advocate, this is one of the decisive reasons for the lack of opposition unity in Chile."

He adds that "we reject this policy not only because of its inability to build a consensus but also because we believe that it is profoundly at odds with the interests of the Chilean people."

In conclusion, Nunez emphasizes that the Socialist Party supports democracy unconditionally and that "this means opposing any notion of a military solution, inasmuch as we feel that in Chile such a solution leads neither to democracy nor socialism."

8743

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REACTIONS TO POLITICAL PARTY LAW

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 2 Jan 87 p C-3

[Text] Leaders of various groups expressed their general satisfaction with and some doubts about the final form of the Political Party Law after they learned of the propositions that the executive submitted to the Government Junta in this regard.

Initially, Adm Jose Toribio Merino reported that political parties could first form by gathering 100 signatures and, later, by bringing together followers equivalent to 0.5 percent of the electorate in the regions in which they have a presence. The percentage can vary, however. Also, the parties that are established in 10 regions can run candidates nationwide.

The politicians also discussed the end of the state of siege.

"Ought to Be Simplified"

Juan Antonio Coloma, a member of the Political Commission of the Independent Democratic Union (UDI), felt that the executive's recent proposals for the political party law contain some good ideas, such as setting a reasonable number of signatures for forming parties.

"Yet, the UDI believes that automatically obliging those sponsors to become active members of that party would create an artificial, fictitious membership, which would not help to put our future political system on a sound footing. It seems clear that many people would sign so that the party of their choice could exist, but without intending to assume their rights and duties as active members," he said.

"Furthermore, it encourages the infiltration of democratic groups by totalitarian elements, inasmuch as faced with the challenge of gathering a relatively large number of signatures throughout the country in just a few months, party organizers will find it almost impossible to check on the qualifications of the signers. Therefore, the UDI suggests that the organization of the parties' active membership be separate from their establishment and that the law not set a minimum number of active members but rather of sponsors to establish the party, inasmuch as the sole objective of this requirement is to prevent groups that exist only 'on paper' from

emerging, as their true representation will be gauged at the ballot box, where they must secure at least five percent of the vote."

He also stated that although he thought it was a good idea to require that the parties have backing in most regions, not in just one or two, "the arrangement that the executive has proposed in this regard is cumbersome and I think should be simplified."

"I also feel that it is not proper for a party to be dissolved if its active membership declines even though it has demonstrated its representation by winning five percent of the vote in congressional elections. I think that these and other provisions governing the internal workings and existence of the parties go far beyond the goal of assuring that they are democratic and representative and curtail the right of unfettered self-organization of intermediate bodies such as political parties.

"Hence, we hope that the government's praiseworthy decision to legalize political parties soon, which the UDI hails enthusiastically, is not handicapped by confusing and impractical norms of doubtful constitutionality. It would seem indispensable and relatively easy for the Government Junta to improve such norms, given the political will to have a party system in operation in the coming months," he said in conclusion.

"Excessive Requirement"

Rene Abeliuk, the president of Social Democracy and of the Democratic Alliance, said that the preliminary reports do not clarify the mechanism that will be in force under the law: "Our opinion is that as the constitution is written, the requirement is excessive and, hence, of doubtful constitutionality. In our view, there are other, mainly electoral mechanisms to prevent an excessive number of political parties. Nevertheless, this is not the most important point. What is, is that an antidemocratic constitution seriously impairs the role of the political parties; there can be no political democracy unless the parties are truly free to act."

"More of an attempt is being made here to control the parties than to enable them to act. Moreover, it seems elementary to us to return to the political parties the assets of which they were illegitimately deprived, because only with such assets will they be able to counter the campaign that is being undertaken with tax revenues to keep the regime going," he added.

Abeliuk also commented on the end of the state of siege, indicating that "it was always unnecessary." He did, however, feel that beginning 1987 without this restriction was "very positive" because, in his judgment, its main purpose was to limit freedom of information: "We also feel that all of the restrictive measures ought to be abolished, because this is the only guarantee that there will be valid elections," he stated.

Requirement "Dropped"

The president of the National Union, Andres Allamand, made the preliminary remark that although not enough background information was available, nor has

the text of the proposals submitted to the junta been made public, we can gather that "the exorbitant, unconstitutional requirement that the executive previously sought has been dropped, as the former requirement of 150,000 active members has been reduced to a still high, though more reasonable number."

As for the regional parties, he indicated that "although Admiral Merino's statements were emphatic that such parties would not be recognized, we could gather from the same statements that the only requirement to run candidates in a given region is to secure the percentage of signatures needed in that region. Inversely, in order for nationwide parties proper to run candidates nationwide, they must have a presence in at least 10 regions. It is one thing to demand that parties have regional representation, which is positive, but it is something else altogether to accept and possibly to thus encourage groups that, regardless of their name, are essentially the sort of regional parties that have supposedly been rejected."

Allamand noted that he could voice an informed opinion only with broader background information. He felt, however, that "as the end of the military regime is near, everything suggests that we should facilitate the expeditious formation of the parties, guarding only against their excessive proliferation."

"Not Ideal"

Former Christian Democrat Senator Radomiro Tomic said that "something is better than nothing, even if after 13 years. The arrangement explained by Admiral Merino is satisfactory but not ideal. The mechanism of registration by regions seems to be a rather confusing compromise on the executive's original proposal of distinguishing between national and regional parties. In contrast, he made no mention whatsoever of the requirement of a modest, albeit reasonable percentage of the nationwide vote so that parties could retain their legal existence when elections are held. Such a provision is to be found in the most modern constitutions, as it seeks to substantiate the essential role of the political parties that represent a significant percentage of the public."

"Highly Encouraging"

William Thayer, a Social Christian, described the proposals as "highly encouraging and sensible" because they point to the enactment of the Political Party Law soon and because they represent a "very realistic and appropriate solution."

"I think that 100 individuals are enough to identify a political group and to justifiably ask several thousand people to join it and give it a structure within a 6-month period. I also feel that it is reasonable for political parties to be founded in a certain place and not to demand that they be founded everywhere at once. I do not believe in political parties that are officially regional. They ought to be national and seek to serve the entire country, but they can be founded in one or another region and develop

differently. It will ultimately be at the ballot box where the citizenry gives them enough support to survive," he said.

Regarding the end of the state of siege, he indicated: "I think it is an excellent move, because the government is thus helping to normalize the country, and the citizenry should respond with a firm, united and unwavering rejection of violence and terrorism and by pursuing all civic activities in accordance with the constitution and the law."

Radical Democracy's Proposition

Jaime Tormo, the president of Radical Democracy, said that if the 0.5 percentage is retained (about 35,000 citizens, he estimated), it would mean that the government has accepted the proposal that his group made during the consultation period.

"I am not familiar with the law, but it means that our proposal has been accepted. Radical Democracy has been encouraging enactment of this law for some time. We first devoted ourselves to the lists of voters. Now, a political party law is indispensable; it is also something brand new, because such legislation has never existed in Chile. Now there will be internal democracy and auditing of funds, so that the parties are not financed by international organizations. I think that it is a good idea to gradually regulate the workings of the parties because they are important institutions in national life. Their existence is a sign of democracy," he said.

Regarding the state of siege, Tormo stated that its end shows that the government has favorable background information "and that the intelligence services have reported that we are going to be able to live without a state of siege. It means that we are becoming civilized and that we are capable of living under a democracy."

8743
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SANFUENTES SCORES LAW ON POLITICAL PARTIES

PY201436 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 17 Jan 87 p C3

[Excerpts] Marxist and other left-wing political leaders yesterday categorically rejected the new law that will govern the activities of political parties. The law was approved last Thursday by the government junta during a special meeting.

Jose Sanfuentes, a communist party member, stated that "the navy, air force, and Carabineros commanders in chief, along with the person who up to a few days ago was the director of the National Intelligence Center, all of whom were appointed to their posts by Pinochet, have enacted separate laws concerning the political parties and the electoral registry. The enactment of these laws is another step in the institutionalization of the dictatorial regime."

Sanfuentes added that "the so-called 1980 constitution has been described by all the Chilean democratic sectors, including the catholic church itself, as illegitimate and anti-democratic, in keeping with its origin and contents, and these new laws are also illegitimate and anti-democratic."

The communist leader also stated that "we, the Chilean democrats, know that the pseudo lawfulness [seudolegalidad] of this regime aims to perpetuate itself in power and that through it there is no chance for a transition toward democracy. The so-called Law on Political Parties will just serve as a pseudo legal [seudolegal] cover for the progovernment political parties, and will be a new tool for the harassment of other political parties and the other truly democratic forces."

Referring to the foreign reactions, Sanfuentes said: "No doubt that the inspectors from the North will be satisfied with these measures. As Mr Shultz, one of the top officials of the Reagan Administration, has just stated: 'We are happy with what is happening in Chile.' In addition, a campaign orchestrated by right wing and large capitalistic reactionary sectors, again lauding these measures, will be announced to the country."

"No democratic sector should be deceived, and any illusions that it is possible to negotiate a real transition to democracy with the gravediggers should vanish once and for all," Sanfuentes concluded.

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CHILE

VALDES DISCUSSES COUNTRY SITUATION

PY191510 Lima Panamericana Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 18 Jan 87

[No video available]

[Excerpts] The Christian Democratic Party today celebrated its 31st anniversary with a ceremony attended by international political leaders. Carlos Blancas, president of the Social Democratic Party and Justice Minister, was accompanied by former Venezuelan President Herrera Campins and former Chilean Foreign Minister Gabriel Valdes. Valdes is also president of the Christian Democratic Party.

Gabriel Valdes said that popular pressure should force Pinochet to call free elections in the near future.

[Begin recording] [Valdes] A great effort must be made to protect the nascent democracies from violence of both the right and the left. Violence and guerrilla actions are threats to Latin American democracy. Therefore, we must support the democratic efforts in Uruguay, Argentina, Peru, Colombia, and Ecuador in an orderly manner. To this end, we want to have a meeting as soon as possible.

[Reporter] Mr Valdes, on what does the return of civilians to government in Chile depend?

[Valdes] It will depend on the strength of the democratic parties and the civilians to mount a campaign for free elections this year, and on convincing the Armed Forces that a political solution is necessary and we must soon have free presidential, congressional, and municipal elections.

[Reporter] Do conditions which would permit elections this year exist?

[Valdes] The conditions do not exist. The constitution does not provide for elections this year. The regime is not moving toward democratization, but the great majority of the country wants democracy and free elections. [end recording]

/12232
CSO: 3348/183

LEADERS ON EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE UNITY WITHIN LEFT

PY202056 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Speaking to Primera Plana [name of program], MDP [People's Democratic Movement] Secretary General German Correa has said that the Ricardo Nunez-led Socialist Party has opposed the efforts to reach unity within the left, and has supported an alliance with center-rightist sectors.

In mid-December, 11 leftist parties held a conclave. Asked about the activities that the leftist parties have undertaken after the conclave, Correa said:

[Begin Correa recording] The board of the left, which comprises the 11 parties that attended the conclave, has continued to meet. Discussions have focused on how to implement the accords that were reached at the conclave. For their part, the nine parties that issued a proposal when the preparations for the conclave were still under way continued to talk to determine how to implement their initiative. Therefore, both the board of the left, as such, and parties making up the board have held meetings.

There have also been talks on the preparations for the next leftist conclave, which will study the mobilization strategy for 1987. As is known, the Socialist Party, led by Ricardo Nunez, has asked that the conclave be postponed. The other parties, however, want to move forward. This initiative must be sponsored by those who really want to promote the reunification of the left, rather than by those who are still reluctant. [end recording]

The communist party is engaged in its usual criticism and self-criticism, and has redefined its strategies. In fact, over the past few months, the public has realized that the communist party has softened its tactics. In addition, communist leaders have signed several documents seeking national unity and a solution to the crisis that our country is experiencing. They advocate a more flexible position. Asked about the communist position, Correa said:

[Begin Correa recording] We see that the communist party is clearly willing to support the accords reached by the group. The communist party and the entire leftist spectrum have adopted a flexible position. Only in this manner, as the Civic Assembly has put it, will it be possible for all of us to simultaneously push for social mobilization. We will thus corner the regime, and pave the way for the restoration of real democracy to replace this imitation of democracy,

which is actually not even an imitation. The political laws and everything else the regime is doing are tricks to allow Pinochet to remain in power indefinitely. [end recording]

Primera Plana has learned that the leftist conclave could not meet again because of the reluctance of the Ricardo Nunez-led Socialist Party. In this regard, German Correa said:

[Begin Correa recording] That party considers its alliances with the center-rightist parties as its most important ones. They withdrew from the Democratic Alliance not because they wanted to strengthen the process of reunification of the left, but because, as they put it, they wanted to strengthen a broader center-right alliance, which includes the National Party and the leftist MAPU [United Popular Action Movement]. This alliance is not the one that most leftist sectors support. The Nunez-led party remains reluctant regarding the reunification of the left, as it clearly stated in a recent Latin American Socialist coordination meeting in Lima. This party explicitly expressed that it does not support the reunification of the left, and this it would oppose any initiative in this regard. The meeting was also attended by the Clodomiro Almeyda-led Chilean Socialist Party. [end recording]

Correa reported that the Chilean leftist parties this week will take another step in their efforts to achieve unity. He said that the left will participate with all its power in the national campaign for free elections that all political sectors are independently sponsoring.

In turn, Jorge Molina Valdivieso, under secretary general of the Socialist Party, which has joined the National Accord for the Transition to Full Democracy, has revealed that a leftist meeting took place a few days ago, and that it was attended by the MAPU, the Radical, the Humanist, the Historic Socialist, the Ricardo Nunez-led Socialist, and the Manuel Mandujano-led Socialist Parties. Valdivieso said that the parties want to reach an accord to build a truly democratic socialist alternative for Chile. This alternative must be based on a nonviolent, political solution backed by a nationwide social mobilization in support of free elections.

Molina Valdivieso announced that the Nunez-led Socialist Party will meet the Christian Democratic Party before the end of the week.

/12232
CSO: 3348/183

OUTLOOK FOR NONMETAL MINING IN 1987

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 24 Dec 86 p B-14

[Text] "The prospects for small and medium mining look stable for next year. We feel that metal production will remain steady and that major growth is in store for exploration and prospecting in nonmetal mining," said the vice president of the National Association of Mining (SONAMI), Oscar Rojas Garin.

He commented that according to the available information, employment in small and medium mining hit some 74,000 in 1985, whereas 76,000 people were working in there as of September 1986.

The returns from metal and nonmetal mining in 1985 reached \$714 million, whereas they stood at \$682 million as of September of this year; the total for this year is projected to be around \$850 million.

Rojas Garin indicated that this major increase in returns is partly due to the sharp rebound in the price of gold, whose average for the year has been close to \$366 a troy ounce. The highest monthly average this year was \$415 a troy ounce in September and the lowest, \$317 in March.

Rojas indicated that according to the estimates of specialized agencies, the expected ceiling and floor prices of gold in 1987 are \$450 and \$317.

He remarked that actually upward fluctuations are expected because demand has increased from, among others, central banks, which are again buying the precious metal.

As far as copper production is concerned, he indicated that current levels are expected to hold steady. The medium-sized companies have achieved these levels thanks to the ENAMI [National Mining Enterprise] support prices and loans, even though money for the latter has been somewhat tight. He also indicated that technological improvements in extraction and processing have helped boost output. All of this has led to "a drop in costs for mining operations, an objective that SONAMI has been emphasizing since 1982."

Small miners have been given incentives to accept a technology transfer from ENAMI and treat copper ore with its "heap leaching" processes.

As for gold, ore crushers have been installed at ENAMI plants, enabling miners to process their own ore and collect their own gold, which they are then free to sell.

As for silver, the government supported a set price until June, at which point it began to fall gradually because of the drop in silver prices on the market, thus prompting miners to switch activities little by little.

Rojas noted that there has been strong activity this year in exploration and prospecting in the area of nonmetal minerals. Among them he mentioned sulfur, diatomite, bentonite and perlite. He remarked that owing to the changes in world industry, nonmetal minerals are in increasing demand.

He emphasized that his group and Prochile have made an effort to let people know about the potential in this area of mining, "for which we see a good future."

Debt

One of the problems facing small and medium mining is its indebtedness, for which a solution is being sought. His personal view is that the sector's administrative authorities ought to pass on to producers the advantages that the small and medium mining sector's exports secure. What he meant was that the bonuses that are paid for quality copper or breaks in freight charges ought to be passed on to the producers so that they can solve their debt problem.

Another arrangement could involve the ores that are sold to ENAMI; they contain smaller amounts of other ores that are recovered at the Ventanas refinery. When the content of these high-grade ores does not surpass a certain level, ENAMI does not pay for them, but they are recovered nonetheless, which translates into a positive metallurgical balance. The companies could be paid for the recovered ore, Rojas said, to lighten their debt burden.

Among the major union accomplishments in 1986, Rojas mentioned the purchase of the Banco Concepcion for the sector. After 103 years the association finally realized its longstanding dream of having a financial institution behind it.

He indicated that an Institute of Mining Productivity is planned for 1987; the idea began to take shape during the various seminars that were held on the subject this year. They were designed to transfer new technologies and technological advances to the small and medium miners. Private companies and other government and private organizations involved in this field will take part in the establishment of the institute.

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CSO: 3348/159

COLUMN CONTINUES EXAMINATION OF PROBLEMS FACING WOMEN

Issue of Illegitimate Children

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 17 Nov 86 p 2

[**"You Tell Me . . . (VII)" column by Mirta Rodriguez Calderon; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]**

[Text] Months ago, on 12 May to be precise, our newspaper told the story of a woman of the people, Maria Ramirez, who resided in Palmarito de Cauto, in the province of Santiago de Cuba. In that story, she reflected on the wisdom that is required to make decisions in one's personal life in order to prevent many women from being limited in their aspirations and dreams because they /"live just to get by, and let themselves be carried wherever the current takes them."/

That news story, called /"Why Does Maria Cry?"/ [This article appears in JPRS-LAM-86-071, 8 Aug 86, p 48], showed how the father of three of this comrade's children had shirked his paternal responsibilities. He acknowledged as his own only the first of the children, so it was impossible for Maria to require him to pay child support. Moreover, he had changed jobs several times in the last 15 years, and it was very difficult to locate him.

When we interviewed her, Maria Ramirez was out of work. The economic problems that beset her household added a burden of sadness to the frustrations of her life, because Wilber, the oldest of her sons, had decided to drop out of school to go to work.

Between May and the present, some things have changed in Maria's life: She found work as a housekeeping aide at the municipal hospital of Mella; Wilber went to Moa and was able to sign up for a course to become an /instrument-maker,/ with a stipend of 97 pesos. This sum will rise to more than 200 pesos when he finishes his training and is placed in a job. Maria's oldest daughter, although younger than the optimum age for happy motherhood, gave birth to a healthy boy, and is living with her in-laws.

As Maria Ramirez became a grandmother and her material and emotional prospects became clearer, we reporters searched for the father of Maria's children.

What you will read here was the result of an encounter with him at the local of the Party Committee in his place of employment.

Finding this man, whom we shall call /Antonio/ (though we could have chosen Sergio, Marcos, Arturo or Juan), was not easy. The operator of mechanical equipment, a Party member, and the general secretary of his nucleus, he has spent most of his 38 years working in a variety of places since he left his home town.

He has a spotless job record, according to his current supervisors. Having led an intense life with no shortage of love interests, this man was confronted this morning with a dialogue that must have struck him as odd:

"Do you think children belong only to their mothers?"

/"No,"/ he responded. /"I do not think children belong only to women."/

"How can it be, then, that you have 'sown six wild oats'?"

The question surprised him but did not throw him off balance:

/"It is true that I have six children and do not live with any of them; but they live more with me than with their mothers . . ."/

"How long has it been since you have seen the one you had with a woman in Bayamo?"

/"Well,"/ he stammered, /"I haven't seen that one since he was little . . . Yes, he must be about 10 now . . . No, I have never given him anything; but the others I do, every month . . ."/

"What about the three children you had with Maria Ramirez, have you been a father to them?"

/"Those, yes, I have sent them 60 pesos a month . . . Well, it is true, I haven't done it in about 7 months . . . Why didn't I acknowledge all of them as my children? I must admit it was through negligence, just one of those things. You get careless and later you just never find the time to take care of these things."/

"Why have you not visited them? Why haven't you taken any interest in their lives?" I persisted.

/Antonio/ hesitated again. He said, however, that he has indeed been concerned about these children. He added that he has not visited them more so that /"people will not say I was running after that woman;"/ and that in the case of the child of the woman in Bayamo, he has not paid attention to the boy because her family prevented him from doing so.

With regard to another daughter he has, he stated that he sees her nearly every day: /"She lives on my way to work."/ And as for his sixth daughter,

he claims that she is not his, because /"I know very well that women do not bear normal children at 6 months."/

"Have you ever visited the schools of any of your children? Have you met their teachers?"

/"No,"/ he answered.

"Were you ever with them when they've been sick?"

/"Once I found out that the second one had the mumps and I went to visit her. . ."/

"When you have studied the Party documents that discuss parents' responsibilities to their children, what have you thought? What have you felt?"

/"I don't have feelings just because they are written down on paper. I love my children and I suffer because I can't have them with me. But that's what life has dealt me. The part about not acknowledging some of them does bother me. If I have gone for months without seeing them, it is because of my work. They have been growing and I have felt that they were missing out on my affection. I have always tried to straighten out the situation, but I have been unable to. Right now I find myself at the age of 38 without a stable family. That hurts me, because I love my children . . ."/

"Are you a 'womanizer'?"

/"I am not a womanizer. I have simply seized the opportunities that have come along. I can't tell you whether I've had 60 or 40 or 100 women. Because that depends on how you look at it. If a guy is going to have a soda and strikes up a conversation with a woman, and then . . . Well, you can't say that just because of that a man is a womanizer . . ."/

"When you have given in to the pleasures of love, have you thought about the possibility of children being born out of that relationship?"

He thought for a while. Since he was taking so long to respond, I asked him another question:

"Do you consider yourself a revolutionary? As a human being, do you feel that you are a good person?"

/"Yes, I am a revolutionary. I may not be a full-fledged communist, but I am definitely a revolutionary."/

We have recounted our conversation with this man, whom we have called /Antonio/ (although we could have named him Rafael, Jose, Manuel, or Carlos), including all the contradictions that emerged during the dialogue, for the sole purpose of making the reader stop and think. That is why in this story, which is real and true from start to finish, we have deliberately avoided identifying the person involved.

You can pass judgment on him as much as you think he deserves, but how many men like him are there in our country? How many irresponsible fathers? How many comrades who behave immaturely and are not very selective in choosing their male companions, only to face consequences that they will regret and their children will pay for? How many people do you know who, halfway through their lives, look at their existence and find it empty? How many couples, after a drink, a conversation, and intercourse create a new life born out of a chance encounter? How can such conduct be justified in a country where contraceptives are available everywhere?

Can men or women consider themselves revolutionaries when they shirk their most basic responsibilities as human beings? Are personal actions divorced from political or labor behavior? Should the Party take an interest in the conduct of its members as fathers and mothers?

Maybe what you have to say will be of help . . .

MININT, FMC, MINSAP Measures

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 19 Nov 86 p 2

[**"You Tell Me . . . (VIII)"** column by Mirta Rodriguez Calderon; photos by Felicia Hondal y Otilio; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] The problem of "fatherless children," whether we like it or not, requires social attention, and perhaps also social compulsion. This is so not only because the assumption of such basic human obligations corresponds to the stage of development in which we find ourselves, but also because when a person shirks such responsibilities he is planting the seeds of future conflicts in society. The examples abound; everyone can think of one case or another.

Moreover, the matter has so many ramifications that not long ago, when the Provincial Commission on Prevention and Social Attention was formed in Camaguey, this issue was studied.

Within the context of an attempt to identify the myriad factors contributing to delinquency, the problem of "wild-oat children" was given a not insignificant place. The instability of these children begins in the home, where the male role model is absent or changes frequently, so that any positive influence is distorted. This instability is reinforced in school, where these children discover that the order of their surnames is different from that of their schoolmates because they have only their mother's last name. . .

This assertion does not minimize in the least the value of the many women who have raised and educated their children by themselves, turning them into upstanding men and women. Nor does it question a woman's right to give herself the satisfactions of motherhood even if she does not always exercise that biological and social right to the tune of the wedding march, sharing her

home with the man to whom she has sworn eternal fidelity (do people still take such oaths?).

Camaguey Experience

The sum total of these realities and the need to exert some influence on them prompted several organizations in Camaguey Province (the Justice Office, particularly its Department of Records and Notarization, the Federation of Cuban Women, the Ministry of the Interior, and the Ministry of Public Health) to undertake a task that has already borne fruit: 3,500 fathers of "wild-oat children" were located, agreed to acknowledge their offspring, and ultimately assumed responsibility for supporting them (many of the mothers did not want the latter, merely that the father admit paternity before the law).

Jesus Guerra Munoz, an attorney who is director of the Justice Office in the province of Camaguey, participated in this task from its onset a decade ago. /"In the beginning we ran into a lot of pitfalls,"/ admitted Guerra Munoz, /"because we did not coordinate efforts well. When we found out the name of the father, we didn't know his address. Sometimes, after a long investigation, we would manage to find the father, only to learn that he had another family which at that very moment learned of the existence of another child or children."/ That first effort, in sum, did not often yield good results.

By 1980, coordination had improved, and the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) channeled the discussion, in its grassroots blocks, of a document that explained the importance of the family, the role of marriage, the value of registering the new citizen, and the inconsistency represented by the presence in our society of children not acknowledged by their fathers.

/"This ideological work was effective,"/ stated the director of justice in Camaguey. /"From then on, mothers began coming to the Department of Records seeking help in finding the father of their children; a few fathers also began coming in."/

Later on the comrades of Camaguey received help from the Ministry of Public Health (MINSAF) in distributing at all maternity-infant hospitals a very readable folder that explained to future mothers what documents they would need to register their babies, and the need for the father to be present at the hospital or to come to the vital statistics office of the hospital shortly thereafter to acknowledge the child, especially in cases where the father was not tied to the mother in a recognized marriage. MINSAF lent key assistance in this regard: Sometimes it would delay in releasing the mother to ensure that the baby would leave the hospital duly registered by both father and mother.

The solutions devised by the political and state forces of Camaguey did not stop there. Several jurists and journalists began publishing articles in the media in a further effort to raise awareness of the need to eliminate the phenomenon of "wild-oat" children.

Search and Persuasion

"/As a result of the dissemination of these materials,"/ stated Guerra, /Many ashamed fathers came into our offices, claiming that they wanted to acknowledge their children but requesting privacy in the registration, because in almost every case they had other families. All that was done in this way, sometimes at noon, in my own office,"/ emphasized Guerra. /"Thus, we gradually reduced the number of what we called 'pending cases,' until they were completely eliminated."/

Of the 3,500 fathers who acknowledged their children in the province of Camaguey in the last 5 years, 768 required a particular effort, first to find them and then to persuade them.

In these cases, the fathers had moved from one province or zone to another, and had to be located by the Ministry of the Interior (MININT). After they were found, the Justice Offices of the provinces in question took the necessary steps to have the man called into the closest Civil Registry.

"/By that time,"/ commented Attorney Jesus Guerra Munoz, /"everything depended on the skill of the registrar. Generally the first reaction of men in this situation was to deny the alleged paternity. Since the registrars had all the information we had given them, the interview never ended without either the father acknowledging paternity or the registrar being convinced that he was not the father--because we did have cases like that, too. . ."/

Straightening Out

The laudable effort undertaken in Camaguey provides indisputable proof that in our revolutionary society we have all the political, persuasive, moral, and also coercive forces available to eliminate the acts of indolence that characterize many children from early infancy if their fathers reject them or pretend not to know them shortly after fathering them.

Can anyone believe that the human psyche could be capable of freeing itself from the disastrous effects of such an experience? How many cases of children going astray and misbehaving (and later having to be dealt with by the juvenile authorities of MININT) are not rooted in the implications of a response like this one: /"No, I don't know who my father is, he never cared about me."/

If this effort was made successfully in Camaguey, and in 5 years all unacknowledged children were finally acknowledged, can the same be done in other provinces?

This task goes hand in hand with another, no less important one: ensuring that all children benefit from the child-support stipend the law requires of both fathers and mothers. Often this law is flouted when fathers avoid acknowledging paternity.

Even the comrades of Camaguey, with all the experience they garnered in this socially laudable effort, admit that free hiring makes it very difficult to

use current mechanisms for administering justice and controlling the workforce to attach fathers' wages in order to make them support their children.

Up in the mountains along the 2nd Front, a group of FMC block leaders (Lidia Rondon, Fidelina Romero, Eulalia Olivares, and Ana Calderon) told us of /"the trouble that a lot of women have to go to in getting the father of their children to contribute to their support."/

They said that on occasion, when one of these single mothers has found where the man works, the personnel and payroll officials of the workplace either warn the man so that he can change jobs, or refuse to reveal how much the man is earning, preventing the woman from suing him in defense of the survival of her children.

Don't you think that in these times, when so many things are being straightened out, human behavior should be straightened out as well? Don't you think we should simplify mechanisms and devise ways to force people to fulfill the responsibilities they have to the children they father?

Maybe what you have to say will be of help.

8926

CSO: 3248/130

ECUADOR

FEBRES ON THREAT TO DEMOCRACIES

PA181754 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1717 GMT 18 Jan 87

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Jan (DPA)--Ecuadoran President Leon Febres Cordero has told a Mexican newspaper that Latin American democracies still face the risk of a military threat.

In statements to the newspaper EXCELSIOR, the president indicated that the Latin American people must "learn these lessons" such as that of his abduction by a military group on Friday.

Such actions, he stressed, "should no longer occur: they do not do democracy any good."

Febres Cordero said that he agreed to grant amnesty to General Frank Vargas Pazzos--who had been under arrest since March 1986 for insubordination--to protect his 40-member retinue seized along with him.

He added that his experience is not a source of pride for Latin American democracies but that "the fact that it was resolved shows that the people want to live in democracy."

In conclusion, he said "there are risks for the democracies, as we experienced it on Friday, but I believe that coups d'etat have been left behind in history."

/9274
CSO: 334E/186

ECUADOR

BRIEFS

DEBT RENEGOTIATION DELAY--Guayaquil, Ecuador, 20 Jan (AFP)--Carlos Julio Emanuel, general manager of Ecuador's Central Bank, disclosed here today that the talks to reschedule the country's foreign debt were interrupted in New York because of the situation that developed in the country Friday when rebel airmen kidnapped President Leon Febres Cordero to exchange him for a rebel officer. Emanuel, one of the Ecuadoran negotiators discussing formulas to reach an agreement with creditor banks, said that when the incidents occurred, new conditions to extend the amortization schedule and reorganize interest payments of approximately \$5 billion were being reviewed. However, when the political-military conflict emerged, the negotiations were interrupted and Emanuel returned to the country. [Excerpt] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1624 GMT 20 Jan 87 PA] /9274

CSO: 3348/186

NEWLY ACCREDITED AMBASSADORS ASSESS STATE OF RELATIONS

Ambassador From Austria

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 20 Dec 86 pp 4-5

[Text]

The accreditation of Austrian Ambassador to Guyana, Dr. Edgar Selzer, can provide added impetus to the friendly relationship existing between the two countries, Vice-President Dr. Mohamed Shahabuddeen has observed.

Speaking during the accreditation ceremony of Dr. Selzer at the Presidential Secretariat yesterday, Dr. Shahabuddeen said that the relations between the two countries have progressed steadily and satisfactorily over the years.

"Our common interest in promoting an environment where international peace, economic progress and political stability could be achieved has provided a basis for Guyana and Austria to work closely together," he continued.

We have noted, with satisfaction, Austria's commitment to the United Nations system and the helpful role it has been playing as host to the many important international conferences that have been held on its soil.

"In this respect Guyana supports the International Conference on Drugs to be held in Vienna next year.

"I hope that during your tour of duty, every op-

portunity will be utilised to explore the possibilities for closer bilateral co-operation, particularly in the economic and technical fields," the Vice-President observed.

In his accreditation speech, Ambassador Selzer noted that the great geographical distance has not prevented Austria and Guyana from gradually establishing ties based on mutual interests and friendship.

"In the present geopolitical situation, some vital concerns are shared by all smaller nations such as Austria and Guyana," he observed.

The most important of these are: the respect for international law as the only legitimate basis for solving disputes between sovereign countries; the preservation of political stability in the world; economic and social progress; human rights; and democracy.

These values, according to Dr. Selzer, need to be asserted today as much as ever.

Austria, like Guyana, continues to believe in an active foreign policy, which is perfectly compatible with our constitutionally guaranteed perpetual neutrality," he added.

Exchange With Algerian Envoy

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 20 Dec 86 p 5

[Text]

Vice-President Dr. Mohamed I. Shahabuddeen yesterday expressed confidence that the coincidence of interests between Guyana and Algeria will serve to inspire and expand bilateral collaboration between the two countries.

"I share your conviction that there are many areas in which our two countries can meaningfully work together for the good of our peoples," the Vice-President observed during the accreditation ceremony of Algerian Ambassador to Guyana, Mr. A. Bachir Ould-Rouis.

In his remarks made in the Credentials Room, Presidential Secretariat, Dr. Shahabuddeen noted that the two countries have taken a stand in the international arena, in purposeful collaboration for international peace and security and for a just and equitable world economic order.

"It is not surprising, therefore, that our positions converge on so many of the burning issues which confront the international community, and that we work closely together at the United Nations and in the Non-Aligned Movement," he added.

In his speech, Ambassador Ould-Rouis also spoke about the common principles shared by Guyana and Algeria.

The relations between the two countries, he observed, date back to the struggle for liberation where the peoples expressed their mutual solidarity for their liberation from the yoke of colonialism.

"After we won our independence, our countries always found themselves on the same side with other countries of the Third World, to defend the same goals and share the same ideals of justice and peace in the world," he continued.

He noted that Guyana and Algeria condemn, with the same vigor the policy of apartheid and racial discrimination in South Africa.

Ambassador Ould-Rouis also referred to the common positions of Guyana and Algeria on the question of South-South co-operation and the need for a New International Economic Order.

/9317
CSO: 3298/101

JAGAN, GOVERNMENT IN DISPUTE OVER FUNDING REQUEST

House Leader's Attack on Jagan

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 30 Nov 86 pp 1, 3

[Text]

Leader of the House, Cde Jeffrey Thomas, who is Minister of Regional Development, said in his statement:

IN view of recent Press reports, public speculation, and Minority Leader Dr. Jagan's inadequate and somewhat misleading attempt at an explanation, I deem it expedient and in the public interest, in my capacity as Leader of the House, to give a background to Dr. Jagan's recent efforts to obtain increases in what he was pleased to call "his remuneration package."

During the course of this year, and more particularly between June and July, Dr. Jagan made private representations to the Comrade Prime Minister for improvements in the financial benefits and conditions attaching to his office as Minority Leader.

In response to a query from the Cde. Prime Minister as to what those improved conditions should be, Dr. Jagan made a written submission by note dated July 11, 1986 in which he sought to

have his benefits and conditions equated with those enjoyed by the Leader of the Opposition in Trinidad and Tobago.

The submission revealed that Dr. Jagan was requesting in excess of \$210,000 per annum in allowances to pay for the services of professional staff alone.

This sum did not include the salary of a secretary and junior staff such as an office assistant and a maid. For what it is worth, this request has been under consideration since its receipt.

It is insufficient — and certainly misleading — for Dr. Jagan merely to make a bland statement to the effect that no suitable accommodation was provided for the office of the Minority Leader. In any event, it does not lie in his mouth to complain.

Dr. Jagan enjoyed such facilities until 1973 when he purported to boycott the National Assembly and ceased to be Leader of the Opposition, as the office was then called.

During his voluntary absence from the House, Government maintained an

office for the Leader of the Opposition at Lot 64, Middle Street, Georgetown. This is a well-known fact.

When Dr. Jagan ended his boycott and returned to the House in May, 1976, he refused to occupy the Middle Street office and the Government subsequently surrendered the lease.

If today, in his capacity as Minority Leader he has no office accommodation, this is due entirely to his capricious conduct in the past in "boycotting" the facilities which the Government had provided for him.

The position of Minority Leader is a high constitutional office. It is an important part of Guyana's political system, and the holder is entitled to be accorded proper precedence and respect in the national scheme of things.

Unfortunately, however, Dr. Jagan has failed to occupy that high constitutional office with a becoming sense of dignity and has consequently undermined its integrity, weakened its influence and damaged its prestige. His

dereliction of duty could be illustrated in manifold ways and is a matter of public notoriety.

For example, Dr. Jagan in general:

- (1) has consistently absented himself from national functions and events, including the annual celebrations to mark Independence day and Republic Day;
- (2) has consistently absented himself from the Supreme Congress of the People, one of the major deliberative organs established under the Constitution;
- (3) has consistently refused to be consulted in respect of appointments and other matters upon which the Constitution requires him to be consulted; and more specifically:
- (4) absented himself from the National Assembly in March this year at the time of the Budget debate, the most important annual event on the

Parliamentary calendar, in order to proceed to Moscow to attend the 27th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. (In answer to criticisms, he maintained, in substance, that it was more important for him to be present in Moscow than to remain in Georgetown to deal with the affairs of the Guyanese people);

- (5) absented himself from the National Assembly in order to holiday in Bulgaria during the month of July this year when the National Assembly was in session and important motions and other important legislative business standing in his name were being debated.

Such examples of Dr. Jagan's abdication of the duties ; attaching to this office could be multiplied.

As far as I know, the Government has not made any decision on Dr. Jagan's request for more money, and the matter is

therefore NOT FORECLOSED. However, I would consider it most unlikely that the Government would deem it appropriate to subsidise further, at public expense, a Minority Leader who refuses to discharge his constitutional obligations to the people of Guyana.

I am sure that, before acting on this matter, the Government would wish to see some evidence of political maturity on his part and some proof of a genuine intention to place the interests of the Guyanese people above his predilection for foreign travel, his appetite for foreign largesse and his bizarre ambition to pose in the foreign arena as an international communist personality - while all the time disrespecting the constitutional proprieties of Guyana and neglecting the vital concerns of the Guyanese people.

Jeffrey Thomas, M.P.
Office of the Leader of the House,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

28th November 1986.

Jagan Statement

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Dec 86 p 4

[Text]

Cde. Speaker,

In view of the misinformation which was carried in the media controlled by the State and the ruling PNC party and the Leader of the House about my position as a member of this Assembly, I wish to take this opportunity to put the record straight.

I issued a Press statement on December 6, 1986, but neither the *Daily Chronicle* nor the *New Nation* published it in part or in full.

The facts are:

1. It is not true, as the *New Nation*'s (3 August, 1986) editorial stated that I was "seeking to negotiate increased salary and emoluments" for myself, and as the *Guyana Chronicle* headline (26 November 1986) suggested: "Minority Leader Dr. Jagan seeks salary increase?" Even after the facts were known, the *New Nation* (30.11.86) persisted with its misinformation through a story, headlined "Leader of the

House refutes Jagan's denial of salary increase request".

2. I never requested, as Mr. Thomas stated, "in excess of \$210 000 per annum in allowances to pay for the services of professional staff alone," not including "the salary of a secretary and junior staff such as an office assistant and a maid."

3. In my letter to the Prime Minister, I pointed out that the \$2400 per month provided for staff and upkeep of the Office of the Leader of the Opposition was unrealistic and totally inadequate. I attached a copy of a letter showing what staff and other facilities were provided for the Office of the Leader of the Opposition in Trinidad, merely to show the glaring difference between Guyana and a neighbouring Caribbean State. I definitely stated that I was not asking for the same as Trinidad.

4. Representation by me for proper staff, equipment and accommodation has

been going on for years. Any fair minded person will agree that \$2400 per month first paid in 1976 was a ridiculous sum later. Yet the Government did not budge on the reasonable request to make decent allocations for the constitutional office. But it allocates huge sums for the Ministry of National Development to carry out mainly PNC (party) functions. A stencil scanner, as a substitute for a photocopier, prepared by Guyana Stores on the instruction of former Vice-President Steve Narine, was not subsequently made available. Even duty-free concession for a photocopier for my

office, which was imported not with State funds, was not granted.

5. I refused to occupy the Middle Street office in 1976 because the premises did not provide proper security. This was the view of the Police. Mr. Feilden-Singh also expressed this view in the presence of the Prime Minister in July last.

Now that these facts are presented in the National Assembly, I hope that they will be published in the State-owned media and the *New Nation*. I repeat: I did not request any increase in salary and allowances for myself; rather, the PPP had opposed the recent increases to salaries.

22 December, 1986

Government's Response

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Dec 86 p 1

[Text]

LEADER of the House, Cde Jeffrey Thomas, last night accused Minority Leader Dr. Cheddi Jagan of divorcing himself from truth and accuracy and said that Dr. Jagan does not even deserve the current emoluments he is drawing.

Cde Thomas was referring to a statement read in the National Assembly yesterday by Dr. Cheddi Jagan, in which he denied requesting any increase in salary and allowances for himself.

In a Press release, Cde Thomas said:

"Dr Cheddi Jagan, Minority Leader, read a statement in the National Assembly yesterday, denying that he was

seeking an increase in his emoluments as Minority Leader.

"In divorcing himself so completely from truth and accuracy, the Minority Leader has done himself a further disservice. The facts speak for themselves.

"The Leader of the House stands by the Press statement he issued on 28th November, 1986, and adheres to his opinion that, by reason of his continued dereliction of duty, Dr Jagan does not even deserve the current emoluments he is drawing."

(See Dr Jagan's statement on centre pages).

/9317

CSO: 3298/101

NEW MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS TAKE OATH, ELECT MAYORS

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 30 Nov 86 p 1

[Text]

Newly elected councillors in the country's five municipalities took their oaths of office Friday and elected the respective mayors and deputies.

Cde. Robert Williams — a member of the PNC Central Committee — is the new mayor of Georgetown, with florist Compton Young as his deputy.

Linden pharmacist Hugh Harris was returned as mayor of that bauxite town with his new deputy being Guymine Training Officer, James Clarence Osborne.

In Berbice, Cde Barbara Pilgrim retained her position as mayor of New Amsterdam, while businessman Sheik Nezam Deen gained the nod as her deputy. On the Corentyne, Party activist Harry Persaud is now at the helm in Rose Hall, with former mayor Oliver Fraser as his deputy.

At Corriverton, community worker, Cde. Mohabir Sukhpaul, takes over as mayor from Cde. Florized Coupain. The Cde Leader praised Cde. Coupain's contribution and said that she had asked to stand down in favour of someone else. The new deputy mayor of Corriverton is teacher and WRSM activist, Cde Iris Alladin.

At Friday's first sitting the members of the respective finance committees were also elected.

Members of the committee in Georgetown are: Cdes. Hans Barrow, Sheik Amir, Hashim Hack, Viola Mc Calman and Bunny Fernandes.

The Mayors and Deputy Mayors are to take the Oath of Office before Prime Minister, Cde Hamilton Green this week.

/9317

CSO: 3298/101

REGION 4 MEETING EXAMINES CORRUPTION, OTHER SHORTCOMINGS

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 30 Nov 86 p 2

[Text]

There is a campaign on to bring about the swift weeding out of persons guilty of mismanagement, waste, corruption, smuggling, and inefficiency. Inefficient managers will be "sent home" in the public interest. This was the high point of Prime Minister Hamilton Green's presentation to the fifth annual conference of Region Four held at the Grove Primary School recently.

Cde Green discussed Guyana's economic realities and the need for people to take work more seriously.

He examined the new line of entrepreneurship and those in the society who identify economic problems and deliberately

set up structures to exploit the rest of society. He expressed concern over those persons who, with useful skills to aid in the development of the

country, neglect those skills for non-productive and anti-national ventures. Among these persons are teachers, policemen and skilled tradesmen.

Truancy, Cde Green noted, was another problem that needed the urgent attention of leaders in the society. He noted with disgust that those of school age who should be in school preparing for their future are involved in the parallel market, with the apparent consent of their parents.

Cde Green urged the conference to strive for the development of moral values and the renewal of standards. Many people seem to have lost a sense of pride and therefore accept sub-standard modes of dress and patterns of behaviour.

The Party has an important role to play. It should plan attractive programmes designed to win new members.

This, he said, should be ongoing at both group and individual levels.

Cde Green also called on Party members to be ever vigilant and wary of the reactionary forces both inside and outside, who, according to him, were still active.

He warned Party members against making the mistake of thinking that the struggle is over, or to become complacent because of the state of disarray and disorganisation of the opposition forces.

/9317
CSO: 3298/101

PPP STATEMENT COMMENTS ON STATUS OF PEOPLE'S MILITIA

Georgetown MIRROR in English 7 Dec 86 p 1

[Text]

The People's Progressive Party has commented on the 10th anniversary of the People's Militia, pointing to its Partisan Nature and calling for a real People's Militia. The statement is published in full—

The 10th anniversary of the Guyana People's Militia was a non-event. It has passed without any fundamental development or innovation having taken place in the institution. Rather than being a genuine People's Militia, as its name implies, it is a PNC militia — very narrowly based and partisan in outlook.

The Guyana People's Militia is a misnomer. It has nothing to do with the people as was originally conceived: Every Citizen A Soldier. Like so many institutions, it has been corrupted to become just an arm of the ruling party. Consequently, there was no enthusiasm, no countrywide celebrations.

The PPP's conception of defence was a small, well-trained

and well-equipped army and a country-wide People's Militia. This would have brought about maximum security at minimum cost.

The PNC with little popular support does not trust the people. Thus, it could not implement the PPP's conception of defence and create a broad-based People's Militia. For the same reason, it refuses to arm vigilante groups to combat gun-toting criminals and to give farmers and Amerindians guns to protect their crops and preserve their way of life.

The end result is a very costly security apparatus, which has become a great burden on the people. More money is being spent for security than for agriculture, despite the declared emphasis on agriculture for development. More money is allocated for security than for health, education, housing and transportation despite the inter-relationship between welfare and development.

This ridiculous situation must be changed. A genuine People's Militia must be established.

/9317
CSO: 3298/101

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CONFIRMS TAX BILL FOLLOWING DEBATE

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Dec 86 p 1

[Article by Dhanraj Bhagwandin]

[Text]

THE National Assembly yesterday confirmed the Consumption Tax (Amendment) Order 1986, which was described by Finance Minister Carl Greenidge as a measure to rationalise the rates in consumption taxes.

The Order does not affect basic items, including petroleum and food, Cde Greenidge assured the House, as he responded to comments from Minority spokesmen Dr. Cheddi Jagan of the People's Progressive Party and Mr. Eusi Kwayana of the Working People's Alliance.

In speaking against the motion, Dr. Jagan contended that the Order increases the cost of living and affects several items, including agricultural equipment and housing materials.

While he agreed that Government should raise revenue, the Minority Leader advocated that the tax mechanism should be used selectively on certain items to achieve development

objectives. He called for a review of the Consumption Tax Act and a reduction of prices of consumer goods.

The motion was also the subject of comments from Mr. Kwayana who claimed that there was a creeping up of indirect taxation in recent times.

INCREASE

In reply, Minister Greenidge observed that throughout the Caribbean there has been an increase in this form of taxation as a result of changes in regional economies.

It is particularly common in states with a large agricultural sector, he continued, and is easy to administer.

The Finance Minister disagreed with an observation by Dr. Jagan that the consumption tax is a blanket measure since rates have been amended both upwards and downwards.

During yesterday's sitting, several papers were tabled, including Financial Paper No 4/ 1986 with a schedule of

Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates totalling \$29 445 898 for the period ending December 2, 1986.

In addition, the Guyana Gold Board (Amendment) Bill 1986 and the Guyana Geology and Mines, Commission (Amendment) Bill 1986 were presented and read for the first time.

SUBMITTED

Among reports submitted were the 1985 Reports of the Guyana National Co-operative Bank and the Ministry of Agriculture.

Finance Minister Carl Greenidge also tabled before the House, reports dealing with loan contracts involving the Inter-American Development Bank. These relate to an industrial reactivation programme, rehabilitation of the Guyana Electricity Corporation and a programme for human resources training and development.

The Assembly meets again on December 29 at 14:00 hrs.

/9317
CSO: 3298/101

NEW 'INDEPENDENT' WEEKLY PAPER ISSUES POLICY STATEMENT

Georgetown STABROEK NEWS in English 5 Dec 86 p 7

[Text]

A NEWSPAPER represents the interests, outlook (and prejudices) of those who own and control it. However, the debate begins, rather than ends, with this assumption. For how those persons perceive themselves and their paper is not pre-ordained. The vast difference in standards and styles between papers of similar political outlook in the West, and closer home in the Caribbean, testifies to that fact.

Whether a newspaper is balanced and tolerant or scurrilous and aggressive in its approach to events and people "in the news," whether it presents news as objectively as possible or attempts to shove its opinions down the readers' throat by printing comment as news, whether, indeed it has any respect for the truth at all, are matters that depend on people, not ideologies or economic systems.

We believe that there is both a need and room for an independent newspaper in Guyana, which submits itself to the rigour of professional standards of journalism. By "independent" we do not mean free of any perception of the interests and opinions of its owners. No paper is, or ever will be, so "free." We mean free of direction by any outside institution.

After twenty years of independence, we have learnt that a democratic society does not spring full blown from a written constitution, especially one inherited in more or less standard form. A constitution may enhance a democratic culture but cannot create one. The real building blocks of democracy are independent institutions which express themselves openly and

operate freely. These groups include political parties, trade unions, business associations, religious bodies and an independent Press and radio.

We believe in and will work for a free and open society in which the rule of law prevails. We believe that an independent and responsible newspaper can make an important contribution to the political and cultural life of a society and can accustom people to thinking for themselves and forming their own opinions.

In the last year, there has been a definite liberalisation of media policy under President Hoyle as evidenced by the grant of licences to opposition parties and the Catholic Standard to import presses even though no foreign exchange has been made available for such presses or for newsprint. In his well-known interview with Mr. Ken Gordon, the managing director of the Trinidad Express, in February this year the President had said "there is nothing in our laws to prevent Guyanese from forming a company and running a newspaper. There is nothing that prevents that." It is partly that statement that created the impetus for this venture.

We will be guided by the traditional principles of good journalism and will make every effort to get the relevant facts and check both sides of a story before publishing. Where interviews are refused, we will say so. We have no ties with and will not automatically support or oppose any political party or other social group. We will approach each national issue as objectively as possible. We do not see ourselves as crusaders except perhaps for the cause of a free

and independent Press and a strong and self-confident citizenry. Because the role of the Press is essentially to investigate, inform and analyse, however, and because of the difficult conditions that now prevail, it is likely that we will on many occasions perform a critical function and will often have to adopt an adversarial role. So be it. Nevertheless, our underlying objective will at all times be to be constructive and to point to viable alternatives where possible.

The situation in Guyana is complex and there are no easy solutions. Certainly, we do not have one. We hope to encourage sober dialogue and the development of a sensible debate on the economy. The economic situation is at present so desperate as to make this an absolute priority. The economy is dominated by the State sector. The record of production is not encouraging and management resources are stretched very thin. We feel that the emphasis now should be on private sector development and on the dismantling of that part of the overgrown bureaucracy which inhibits the development of new industries by businessmen.

We see ourselves as regionalists but feel that Carirom has never transcended a colonial and bureaucratic perspective. Regional leaders pay lip service to it and have treated it as a limited opportunity for trade but the whole question of regional integration and its practicality in terms of distance between the territories and lack of communication remains to be seriously examined, and placed once more on the agenda in the light of

recent developments. In principle, we support the regional idea and its strengthening by institutions such as a Caribbean Economic Commission and a Caribbean Court of Appeal.

We do not intend to publish a highbrow newspaper for a limited readership. Our aim will be to write simply and clearly and to cater for all tastes. Nor do we wish to be seen as too solemn. In our opinion, it is an important function of a newspaper to entertain and to cater for as many interests as possible. With this in mind, we hope to spread our net widely.

Given the foreign exchange constraints under which we are operating and our method of production — our paper is printed in Trinidad — we will have an artificially early deadline and it will not always be possible for us to cover last-minute developments. We will do our best to overcome this problem. Eventually, we hope to acquire our own Press and to graduate to a daily newspaper printed and published here. We have had to raise bridging finance to pay the Express for printing and would like to acknowledge our gratitude to the National Endowment for Democracy, a Washington-based institute, which has provided the funds through the Institute of North-South Issues.

Finally, we wish to thank the Caribbean Press and their regional institution, the CPBA for their encouragement and in particular Mr. Ken Gordon, the managing director of the Trinidad Express, without whose continued support we would not have got off the ground.

/9317
CSO: 3298/101

GANJA ISSUE IN POLITICAL SPOTLIGHT; PNP HITS SEAGA CHARGES

Venezuelan Magazine Article

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Dec 86 pp 1, 3

[Text]

PARLIAMENTARY Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Jeremy Palmer, read into the records of the House of Representatives yesterday an article from a Venezuelan-based magazine, imputing an alliance between top officers of the People's National Party and Jamaican and U.S. drug traffickers.

However, Members of Parliament, Mr. E.K. Powell (Northeast St. Catherine) and Mr. Howard Wedemire (Southeast Westmoreland) questioned the ground and manner in which the article was being brought to the attention of the House.

The officers of the Party named in the magazine — *La Religion* — are: Mr. Michael Manley, President; Mr. P.J. Patterson, Chairman and Dr. Paul Robertson, General Secretary.

Conservative estimates, according to Mr. Palmer quoting from the article, placed the figure accepted by the Party well over US\$1 million.

"It is commonly held that drug trafficking has been seriously hurt in Jamaica thanks to the anti-narcotics efforts of the Seaga Government... for which reason the narcotics traffickers would like to see him lose power," Mr. Palmer said, reading from the article.

Mr. Palmer also cited a section of the article which re-

ferred to observers within the PNP who were "deeply bothered" by the implications that the Party was in league with and corrupted by outlaw elements of society. "They believe that the Jamaican drug barons, with their unlimited wealth, could evolve into a new powerful elite capable of making and breaking governments," he quoted the article as saying.

The article named three "top men of the Jamaican drug world" as Andy Chin, Arthur Sharpe and Kenneth Black. Mr. Black was said to have contributed \$100,000 to the PNP's annual conference in September.

Mr. Sharpe was described as being of great help during that conference when he hosted a dinner in honour of the PNP officials and foreign guests, including among whom were Soviets, Cubans and Nicaraguans.

In response to a query as to whether the matter was one of urgency and national importance to merit suspension of Standing Orders for it to be dealt with, Mr. Palmer said it must be a matter of grave national importance if in a foreign newspaper three persons who stood outside of the House and offer themselves to be part of an alternate Government are presumably linked to international drug trafficking and drug money.

Mr. Palmer said he was requesting the Minister of National Security to put to work the network of all investigative forces to bring some light to bear on this matter.

The Minister of National Security, the Hon. Errol Anderson, informed the House that the matter was not one for debate; and his Ministry proposed to investigate the contents of the article. "I am concerned as all of us are as patriotic Jamaicans on the effect of drugs on the very fabric of the society," Mr. Anderson said. There was a question of national image implied and bound up in the article, he said. Mr. Powell described the reading of the article as the "most dastardly thing to have happened" without the persons named having any recourse to legal action.

He asked: "Who from Jamaica sent this report to Venezuela? Has the mover found out the source in Jamaica that sent the report?"

Minister Bruce Golding: What kind of ridiculous thing is that?

Powell: Please don't interrupt. I think it's most un-nationalistic, most un-Jamaican to kick someone who has his feet tied. Does the mover of this motion think it's an honourable thing to Jamaicans who can't defend themselves? Mr. Powell said

He could not subscribe to drug taking or dealing in any shape or form and it was very necessary for the island to be kept clean of drugs of all kind.

But he said that Mr. Palmer's move was not honourable and he said he was asking him respectfully to withdraw the names which were publicly read into the report because it was not an honourable thing.

For his part, Mr. Wedemire said that no real motion had been brought before the House because it was not urgent or anything new. He asked what had happened to 22 names which had been kept in hiding for so long, referring to names the Prime Minister had claimed were linked to ganja. He said he could recall other publications carrying names which were never brought to the House.

This matter should not have been brought through the "back door" of

the motion for adjournment if it were urgent and of national importance. He said that it was the plight of rural Jamaicans who because of lack of representation had found themselves in the trade (ganja) which should be brought before the House.

Mr. Wedemire questioned what opportunity the Government was creating for the mass of people who were not in control of what was going on but who had to subsist.

He accused the Hon. Bruce Golding, Mr. J.C. Hutchinson, the Hon. Neville Gallimore, the Hon. J.A.G. Smith and the Hon. Neville Lewis as knowing some of the 22 names; but he withdrew the names as Mr. Golding pointed out that names should not be called when members were addressing other members of the House.

However, Mr. Wedemire said that members from the parishes of St. Catherine, St. Ann, St. Thomas,

Manchester and St. Elizabeth knew the names. Mr. Golding arose again, saying it could not be proper for Mr. Wedemire to be imputing motives which were suggested in his statement.

Mr. Wedemire said he withdrew all the comments he had made because it appeared that Members did not know anything about their country. During his contribution, Mr. Wedemire was constantly heckled by Members.

House Leader, Mr. Smith cautioned Mr. Wedemire that when he mentioned his name he ran a risk that was not a good one. He said while he appreciated that someone could get carried away, "please make sure you have your brain in motion before you put your mouth in gear."

Mr. Wedemire rose on a point of order. But the House was adjourned while he was on his feet.

PNP Denial

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Dec 86 pp 1, 3

[Text]

THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY yesterday rejected charges by Prime Minister Edward Seaga that the party had links with the ganja trade and challenged him to substantiate the allegations.

PNP Chairman Mr. P.J. Patterson was responding at a news conference at party headquarters in Kingston to allegations by Mr. Seaga at the JLP annual conference at the National Arena on Sunday.

Mr. Seaga had accused the PNP of having links with "ganja barons" through an organisation known as "The Green Growers Association."

Mr. Patterson however said the PNP was hearing about this organisation for the first time and challenged the Prime Minister to disclose who were the members, why it was formed and when it was supposed to have met with the PNP.

Accusing Mr. Seaga of a futile attempt to create a political alibi for his resounding defeat in the elections of July 29, Mr. Patterson said that the JLP's "lamentable record of performance" had driven them to em-

ploving the strategy of "the big lie."

Mr. Patterson said the PNP was against all dangerous drugs, including ganja.

He said: "The People's National Party challenges Mr. Seaga to substantiate his unfounded allegations or stand forever condemned as a political coward and a mischievous charlatan."

Mr. Patterson said dangerous drugs had created undisputed hazards of addiction and turned Jamaica into a major transhipment port for illegal drug traffickers, "as we are reminded by the recent case arising in St. James with a family

with JLP political association."

Mr. Patterson said that when the PNP came and again spoke of the drug menace it embraced all dangerous drugs and necessarily includes ganja and its sincerity in the fight against all drugs could not be doubted.

He said the PNP as Government between 1972 to 1980 initiated "Operation Buccaneer" which involved the co-operation of local and international narcotic agents.

It sought to suppress the trade and encourage farmers to move away from planting ganja to other

crops.

"He said the PNP Government did not hesitate to use the army to put illegal airstrips out of operation."

"It recognised that the ganja trade endangered our security and was a major element in gun running," he said.

Mr. Patterson said this forceful action against the drug trade incurred the wrath of the ganja lobby, local and external, against the PNP in the 1980 election.

He said: "we know of JLP supporters who actively campaigned on the line that a change of Government 'would free up the ganja trade'. The earlier pronouncements of the Seaga Administration at first suggested turning a blind eye. On several occasions he proclaimed to the foreign press that ganja was essential to our economic survival. He instructed the banks to grab foreign exchange 'from whatever source, no questions asked'. His tune was drastically changed when it became clear that such a line would prevent him from receiving further financial aid from the USA."

Mr. Patterson said that the PNP's spokesmen on National Security and Public Utilities for years had complained that the airports and Air Jamaica were being used to traffic ganja, while security remained in the hands of an ex-JLP candidate, Peter Whittingham, who was convicted in the United States for ganja offences.

He said: "Despite these several statements, Pernell Charles did nothing until the horses had bolted and Air Jamaica fined thousands of US dollars and plane seized."

Mr. Patterson said the ganja trade presented a serious threat to tourism interests and export trade.

That is why the PNP had consistently urged that the security forces of the State rather than private firms be used to man these vital points.

He said: "Mr. Seaga and his cronies might forget, but we remember that the U.S. Government report published over a year ago, stated categorically that 'high placed Gov-

ernment officials' were involved in the trafficking of ganja. In spite of that report, no action was ever taken by the Jamaica Labour Party to clear itself."

He called on Mr. Seaga to state publicly which JLP representatives or candidate had been the subject of adverse drug reports, both by the local security forces and the Drug Enforcement Agency of the United States.

Mr. Patterson said: "We are reminded of the so-called threat on his life (by ganja barons) when he claimed he knew the conspirators. Oddly enough, not one person has since been arrested."

He said the PNP, while in Opposition, had sought in a spirit of national reconciliation, to work out serious proposals to deal with the questions that beset the society.

"Seaga's response, true to form has been one of lies, innuendoes and distortion. The integrity of national life needs to be restored."

In the interest of this, Mr. Patterson said, they were calling on the JLP to (1) make public disclosure of the assets of its Ministers and Members of Parliament (2) to open the books on the Party's finances to public scrutiny. The PNP had already pledged to do the same, should Mr. Seaga accept, and (3) to respond immediately to the proposal of the President of the PNP for the establishment of the Committee on Crime, which would ensure that the campaign against drugs is successfully concluded.

He said Mr. Seaga had made serious allegations concerning meetings between the PNP and the "ganja man," and the existence of an organization called the Green Growers Association.

Since Mr. Seaga knows these things, Mr. Patterson said, he must tell the country when and where, and between whom these meetings have taken place.

He must also state the persons who have formed the Green Growers Association and for what purpose.

The PNP, he said, knew nothing of these matters.

Further PNP Reaction

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 4 Dec 86 p 3

[Text]

THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) has described as "another political concoction" allegations by a Venezuelan magazine that it had an alliance with ganja men and received money from such men.

The Party said that "rather than continuing with these wild and spurious allegations, the JLP must focus on the beam in their own eyes."

It said the timing of the article read into the record of the House of Representatives on Tuesday by Mr. Jeremy Palmer, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture suggested collusion between the magazine, **La Religion**, and the Jamaica Labour Party.

Mr. Palmer, after reading the article published in **La Religion** in October, asked for an investigation into the charges it contained, including one that top PNP officers — President Mr. Michael Manley; Chairman Mr. P.J. Patterson, and

General Secretary Dr. Paul Robertson — were fully aware that the Party took money and actually accepted money themselves.

In a statement yesterday, Mr. K.D. Knight, the PNP's spokesman on Security, denied the charges carried in the report and said it was noted that objections "to this misuse of Parliamentary privilege" were raised by members of the JLP in the House.

"This blatant abuse of Parliament for the dissemination of cheap propaganda is yet another example of the Government ruling as a political par-

ty and forgetting the welfare of the nation," the statement said.

The PNP statement said: "Mr. Knight noted that in the one-party debate certain JLP Members of Parliament were identified as having knowledge of ganja men, and again called on the Government to identify those high-ranking officials who were mentioned in the report on drugs to the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, which stated that narcotics-related corruption in the Government of Jamaica is pervasive".

Defense of Drug 'Barons'

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 7 Dec 86 p 10A

[Dawn Ritch column: "One Way To Stop Gangsterism--Legalize Ganja!"]

[Text]

Tabled in the House last week was a report from a Venezuelan magazine which said that "... the People's National Party (PNP) eager to fund its return to power after six years of being in opposition, has begun to take large amounts of money from Jamaica and U.S. narcotics traffickers."

Another report to the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee says "... both political parties (in Jamaica) receive large portions of their money from supporters

involved in drug trafficking."

And in a book published by Doubleday this year, called "The Underground Empire: Where Government and Crime Embrace", the following passages appear on page 449... "They're guys I know helped Seaga get into Jamaica down there, the prime minister. Bringing in ammunition, shooting people that needed to be shot. They smuggle guns from here to there and trade them for marijuana and come back.

"Well the key to the whole thing is the Jamaicans down there — like the marijuana fields are the only thing that gets the politics done. I

can fly into Kingston, Jamaica tomorrow and some guy'll come up to me and go 'Are you Americano, you got a plane?' They say 'We'll front you all the marijuana you want, you take it, fly it out, and then send us our money, we trust you.' They're trying to sell as much as they can to get money up for the politics."

Unreliable?

This is all becoming very peculiar. Where does the truth end, and the lies begin? Although the publication is the product of five years of research and written with the participation of the United States National

Security Agency, the CIA, DEA, and testimony from enforcement agencies and the traffickers themselves, I want to emphasize that I believe that the book could nevertheless be unreliable.

But it does demonstrate amply that everybody is accusing everybody else of participation in and/or profiting from the ganja trade.

This is utterly childish, because now neither political party dare legalize it. Neither the JLP nor the PNP in the foreseeable future will be able to act in the national interest to remove the brutal gangsterism associated with an illegal ganja trade, because neither wishes to be accused of acting in its own self-interest.

People's privacy

We need not be naive. The gangsterism is a product of not legalizing it. Drugs are as old as civilization and no government, church or any law anywhere at any time will ever be able to stop people from taking them.

"The duty of our social and legal institutions is therefore to ensure that people's privacy, their rights and their lives are protected. And the first step is to dismantle all legislation which automatically make people criminals for earning a living and finding recreation the way they have since time began.

We've now got ourselves into a hopeless tangle by pursuing a war on drugs that we can never win.

Unless the authorities wake up to this reality and legalize the trade, drug traffickers will continue to get hold of our political parties and governments by the only means available to them — gross corruption. With blackmail and extortion and the subversion of every single institution upon which we depend for the maintenance of rule of law.

Ganja traders

This gangsterism must stop, and there is only one way to do it. Legalize marijuana. The ganja traders ought to be required to incorporate

themselves, paying taxes the way any other legal company would which makes a profit from the community, and behave like responsible corporate entities.

"Then the Government can begin to set standards and regulate the industry to ensure that the good name of Jamaican marijuana is never again tarnished by the sale of hastily grown and shipped ganja as it was in the late 70's. Prior to the United States Government beginning to experiment so successfully with growing high quality sensimilla in the States, Jamaican marijuana had the highest THC content (8 percent) in the Western Hemisphere. The only thing in the same family as strong as ours was the Thai stick from the Far East.

Instead we've allowed the Americans to steal a march on us. They make us destroy our own fields by threatening to cut off aid to Jamaica, while their own growers have rushed in and now supply upwards of 70 percent of total domestic demand in that country.

More Votes To PNP

I really can't see the point of our policies here. When the Prime Minister accuses the PNP of having links to ganja barons, he drives more votes into their camp.

Ganja barons build police stations for their own and the community's protection, they pay school fees for children who don't belong to them, they are often better corporate citizens than many established companies, and private lucrative employment for hundreds of thousands of small farmers. Even at \$1.50 a dump, their product remains good value for money.

The PNP were equally foolish to deny the link. But the denial will probably hurt them less than the original accusation will Seaga. Hope springs eternal in the bosom of every ganja man that another government will be kinder.

Nor has any government won an election by campaigning for public decency. Public decency is what people can do for themselves; it doesn't answer the question of what a political party can do for them.

Besides, people tend to welcome opportunities for indecency as long as they are legal and controlled. The job of a government is to regulate these opportunities, not to deny them.

Another Call for Legalization

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 7 Dec 86 p 10A

[Morris Cargill column]

[Text]

Up to now there has been a deafening silence from the authorities about the Piper Aztec plane which was calmly flown out of the airport at Montego Bay by one, or some say, two gunmen. This may be because the matter is being 'investigated'.

I am sure it is being investigated, but this word is too often used nowadays by the authorities who either wish to say nothing, or have nothing to say.

It is inconceivable that an aircraft could have been so easily taken in this way, obviously fuelled for the 600-mile journey to Florida, without a number of people having been bribed all along the line. As this column recently pointed out, the public hardly begins to be aware of the large scale of corruption which now exists in Jamaica. It is not only a matter of the ganja barons and their attendant gangsters. Rich criminals, and quite a large number of rich crooks who call themselves businessmen, can get through customs and out of customs almost anything they want.

The only efficient class of people in Jamaica today are the racketeers.

GANJA AND ARMS

Speaking of which, I read that the Jamaican Council of Churches has called on the Government 'to initiate and pursue a relentless campaign against the inflow of weapons'.

As I tried to point out in a recent column the importation of

a considerable quantity of arms in return for the export of ganja is a direct consequence of the gangsterism concerned with the export of ganja and the relatively new trade in hard drugs.

This, in turn, is a consequence of the U.S.A. having imposed upon us a prohibition which it should have kept within its own boundaries; a prohibition which in any event has signally failed, and will continue to fail. The largest producer of ganja, and of the more potent sensimilla is now the U.S.A.

Effective solution

The only effective solution to this gangsterism, as far as Jamaica is concerned, is to legalize ganja in Jamaica. Once that is done, and the growing and export of ganja becomes, in Jamaica, a legal enterprise, the gangsterism and the arms to promote it and the enormous corruption involved will become unnecessary and irrelevant.

The legalizing of ganja would have no effect, one way or another, upon its use locally. Indeed, from the internal point of view it is already in practice legalized. I do not know of any recent case in which anybody has been prosecuted for the personal use of ganja. It is used and sold openly to tourists in all the resort areas, especially in Negril. The local trade in ganja is as open as the trade in cabbages.

It is the attempt to frustrate its export that creates all the evils from which we now suffer and which will go on creating those evils at a continually accelerated pace.

/9317
CSO: 3298/086

MEXICO

DIFFERENCES OVER PSUM INVOLVEMENT IN VOTE FORUM VENTILATED

Mexico City ASI ES in Spanish No 180, 17 Oct 87 p 9

[For text of the "Declaration of the Forum for Effective Suffrage," issued 7 September 1986, see JPRS LATIN AMERICA REPORT of 7 November 1986 (JPRS-LAM 86-105), PP 98-102]

[Text] This past 22 September, EL UNIVERSAL published a front-page interview with Arturo Whaley, a member of the Political Commission of the Central Committee and of the Congressional Group of our party. In it Whaley questioned the so-called "convergence" of the leftwing opposition parties PSUM [Unified Socialist Party of Mexico], PMT [Mexican Workers Party] and PRT Revolutionary Workers Party] with PAN [National Action Party] and other rightwing groups. He said, among other things, that "if we are politically sensitive, we will have to reflect on the damage that could be done to our organization. If the party insists on forcing its decision-making, if it does not process all points of view, if it does away with concerted action, then it will destroy what remains of the PSUM agenda." The article ended thus: "Arturo Whaley indicated, in conclusion, that the dissident group would keep on fighting to get the party leadership to end its virtual alliance with the National Action Party."

The next day, 23 September, Juan Luis Concheiro, a member of the Central Committee and the party's spokesman, responded to Whaley's remarks without clarifying that he was doing so on his own behalf and not setting forth any official position. He said, among other things, that "if the minorities within the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico persist in their uncompromising stands on the convergences that the Central Committee has spurred in defense of effective suffrage, then there may be insuperable differences and there may be a split." The article, which appeared in the "Political Class" section of LA JORNADA, was entitled: "Possible Split in PSUM, According to Spokesman Juan Luis Concheiro." "The spokesman indicated that blackmail and political pressure are not the way to resolve internal differences."

Clarifications, Details and Confusion

In the same article, Manuel Stephens, another member of the PSUM Political Commission, ruled out the possibility that the former members of MAP [Popular Action Movement] would leave the PSUM, "because there is no such rift. What

has happened is that there have been intense discussions in which the majority has understood the essence of the convergence with PAN on this specific point of effective suffrage." Some of the main occasions of the convergence with PAN bear recalling: Sinaloa in 1983, San Luis Potosi and Nuevo Leon in 1985 and this year in Chihuahua, Durango and Oaxaca, always in defense of the vote and against government fraud. The convergence culminated in the Forum for Effective Suffrage, the substance and details of which the national press and this paper as well have duly covered.

A day later, the "Political Class" column published the statement of the coordinator of the PSUM Congressional Group, Arnoldo Martinez Verdugo, also a member of the Political Commission, who "ruled out the possibility of a split in his party." An essential element in a "democratic party like the PSUM," Martinez said, "is to continue the debate that gave rise to the disagreements, because we cannot lapse into the realm of speculation." He went on to say that "the right to disagree is guaranteed in the PSUM. "The fact is that there have always been differences in the PSUM, because there is no reason for the minorities to subordinate themselves to what the majority says, but what is not normal is to resort to the blackmail threat of a split as a form of struggle."

Also on the 24th, a clarification from Juan Luis Concheiro was printed in LA JORNADA's "Enlightened Mail" section. Although he did not deny the remarks that had been attributed to him, he made certain qualifications. To him the main thing was not the possibility of a split but rather the correctness of continuing to discuss differences of opinion. He reiterated that in the PSUM minorities have no other choice but to try and convince the majority when the political struggle so requires." In his clarification Concheiro attributes "sensationalist tendencies" to LA JORNADA reporter Ricardo Aleman, which prompted both a response from Aleman and a collective protest from the paper's reporters and editors against the PSUM spokesman.

The Political Commission's Declaration

On 25 September, a declaration from the Political Commission of the Central Committee was published in several papers (ASI ES, No 179, p 2). It made the following points: a) Differences of opinion are inherent in the PSUM. Debate is unfettered and has been carried on as such. The airing of differences does not, in and of itself, constitute blackmail or illegitimate pressure; b) The decisions that have been made on issues such as the defense of the vote do not depend on the existence of "automatic majorities." Rather, they have resulted from a discussion in which those with differing views have strived to convince with their arguments"; c) The Political Commission of the Central Committee does not foresee any split or rift in the PSUM as a result of internal disagreements. It bears adding that this declaration was approved unanimously by the Political Commission, with three colleagues from the former MAP in attendance.

In conclusion and as if to put an end to rumor and speculation, Rolando Cordera granted an interview to the weekly PUNTO, No 205, from which we reprint the following excerpts:

PUNTO's Interview with Rolando Cordera

Rolando Cordera, a former member of the Political Commission of the PSUM and of the now defunct MAP, asserted that none of the members of the latter group "has even hinted" about splitting from the PSUM and he pointed out that his party's Central Committee has not applied its political line clearly enough.

He also stated that the PSUM has been hasty in establishing common ground with the Right and that the pacts to democratize the country are necessary, "but the Forum for Effective Suffrage has gone beyond the defense of the vote. What they are planning is a sort of broad-based political initiative."

Cordera asserted that the PSUM members who disagree with the convergence with PAN do not question the struggle to secure national accords to democratize the country, "into which PAN, of course, and, I think, the government and its party would have to enter." Rather, they are questioning the context and way in which the pacts are being established.

[Question] The argument for including PAN in the forum's appeal was that the Left could not counter election fraud by itself. Do you agree?

[Answer] Not just the Left but no force is enough by itself. The defense of the vote must be a principle of all democratic parties. This seems obvious to me. What I disagree with is the manner and timing of the convergences. It may seem innocuous or insignificant, but in politics form, timing and language are very important. Without them we are not engaging in politics; we are making a statement. That is fine, but it is not enough. Now then, boiling the discussion down to whether one does or does not want to come to terms with PAN is failing to grasp the central point. Moreover, if the issue is to get together to defend the vote, I am in agreement, but I do not think that it warrants all of the accoutrements, which would be fine for other initiatives.

[Question] It has been said that the struggle is very specific and temporary and that it will be only to secure respect for the vote.

[Answer] So there is no reason to provide for appearances, because in politics appearances do not deceive; the form is the substance, and if they think otherwise, then they do not know politics.

[Question] Campa's criticism was that the members of MAP said nothing when an alliance was formed with PRI and the government.

[Answer] I am not condemning convergences. On the contrary, I support them. They are necessary. The problem is with whom and when they are established. That is the issue. If we are seeking national pacts for democratization, then the other forces must meet certain conditions, and they are not doing so.

[Question] Some members of the PSUM have stated that the MAP people have tried to apply political pressure and to resort to blackmail to impose their views on the majority.

[Answer] Everyone tries to exert political pressure; that's what politics is about. As for their charge of blackmail, it is untrue. The only people who have talked about a split are Juan Luis Concheiro and Mr Martinez Verdugo. The latter said that "what is not right is the blackmail threat of a split." Well, he should say who has threatened a split. Not me, and I don't think that any of my comrades in the former MAP have hinted at a split. The blackmail charge is false.

[Question] Could it happen?

[Answer] That's not up to me to say. What I can say is that at no time has there been talk of a split. Oddly enough, and this will give you some idea of how odd a party the PSUM still is, the people who are talking this way are the representatives of the majority. Splinter groups are generally in the minority. [end of answer]

In talking about the ways to express dissent in the party, Cordera, who resigned a few weeks ago from the Political Commission, asserted that such ways exist and that freedom of expression is guaranteed. The problem, he contended, "is that we do not have forms of organization for making decisions appropriately and for insuring that both the majority and the minority can develop their positions."

[Question] Do you feel that so far the leaders of your party have been clear in their political actions?

[Answer] No, I don't think so. There is a problem of definition and of implementing the political line. The Left cannot afford to risk losing its identity, because it has not yet established it clearly. If we were a strong, well established organization, deals with opposing groups could be made much more easily. But since we are a group of forces that are still seeking their own image in the public's eye, there are many risks. (Gustavo Hirales)

8743

CSO: 3248/133

MEXICO

FORMER OFFICIAL APPROVES OF TEMPORARY MORATORIUM PROPOSAL

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 5 Dec 86 pp 7-A, 8-A

[Adrian Lajous Commentary: "Foreign Debt; Less Successes, Please"]

[Text] The governments of Mexico and the United States are having a fine time congratulating themselves for their successful resolution of our country's foreign-debt-servicing problem. The so-called solution was to force the creditor banks to lend us more money to pay the interest due this year and in 1987. The only success that I agree we will have scored is to outstrip the insolent Brazilians, who used to boast of being the most heavily indebted Third World country. We have only one more championship to win: outdoing Panama, which has the highest debt per capita (\$2,478 per inhabitant). Before that, however, we would have to overtake six other Latin American countries that owe more than we do per person. We owe only \$1,324 for every Mexican man, woman, child and elderly person.

Both in Mexico and overseas there are more and more of us spoilsports who do not share the euphoria of the jubilant governments of the two countries. We keep on pestering people with the argument that we are losing, not winning by going further into debt. I am going to mention just a few of the many foreign figures who do not agree with the deal that the government made.

Henry Kissinger said in July: "I cannot believe that it is likely that President De la Madrid will leave office without having done anything other than pay interest to the Gringo (the word he used) banks for 6 years, at the cost of greater unemployment and austerity." Kissinger proposed that the interest-payment burden be lightened through explicitly political discussions between the governments of Mexico and the creditor countries.

John Pool and Stephen C. Stamos Jr said in June: "The Reagan administration has shown little interest in facing up to the structural nature of Mexico's debt crisis." These two economists proposed a "conciliatory moratorium" [mora conciliatoria], explaining that it would be "...a premeditated action in which everyone would assume that the debt cannot be paid and that a new approach to the problem is needed."

John Kenneth Galbraith has just proposed that for starters the Latin American debtor nations declare a joint unilateral moratorium.

William Simon, the former U.S. treasury secretary, said: "A bailout that increases the debt makes no sense when the problem is already too much debt. Those countries are bogged down because they cannot service their current obligations. Their problem will not be resolved with a bailout that piles more debt on them."

The public officials who have to defend the indefensible step of borrowing more to make interest payments must bite their tongues every time they have to show their face to explain why we should do so. Their explanation is that the reaction of the creditor countries to a moratorium would be disastrous for Mexico. As if our life now were a bed of roses! They allege that there would be an overseas boycott of Mexican goods and that all Mexican assets abroad would be attached.

There are no grounds for this apocalyptic vision. There is not even a precedent in history for it, even though in the past the powerful countries did not kid around. It is true that after the suspension of payments that Juarez decreed in 1861, Spain, France and England seized Veracruz and that little Napoleon III took advantage of the opportunity to invade Mexico. But those days belong to the past, and even then Mexican goods were not boycotted. We had a few unpleasant moments when the oil industry was expropriated, but the only item boycotted was oil exports, by a few countries. When Iran seized the U.S. diplomats and declared that the United States was the great Satan, Iranian Government accounts in American banks were merely frozen. Private monies were not touched, and the official accounts were soon freed up.

What our negotiators should have said this year is that the country can no longer continue to bleed itself dry by servicing its debt completely, to engage in "dissavings" in the language of the experts in government finance. We have paid every last cent of interest so far without having gotten any fresh loans since 1984. We have thus shown our good faith and good will, but an underdeveloped country with major shortages cannot keep on exporting capital indefinitely. The debt servicing will have to be adjusted to our surpluses after necessary imports. The creditor banks are in a position to make such an adjustment because they have already written down their loans so much that as of August they were offering to sell them at 57 percent of their face value and have written them down further since then.

The estimates of what the country can reasonably pay are very complicated, even more complicated when they are done with our creditors. Mexico and its creditors will have to appoint a technical studies committee that would submit its conclusions to a political committee. This will require a total moratorium of least 180 days (the "conciliatory moratorium" that Pool and Stamos propose). Payments would resume when agreement is reached on the technical and political levels.

During the negotiations that have taken place so far, we debtors have been the anxious ones. Under a conciliatory moratorium, in contrast, the creditors would be the ones interested in hastening the studies and the resulting rescheduling because they would not be getting paid. The outcome (what doubt

can there be) would be a major remission of the principal and a substantial cut in interest payments.

The opportunity has passed, but in 1988 we will again have to make interest payments out of our own pocket, because the creditor banks have already made it known that they will not let the U.S. Government twist their arms again and lend money to Mexico so that we can pay them interest. Hopefully by then the government will be determined to stop exporting capital and increasing the debt, as Kissinger hinted. Otherwise, the presidential hopeful who wins out in this year's contest will have to do so from the day he takes office.

There would be no reason for a feud under a conciliatory moratorium, but if there were one, it would not be fatal, nor would it have the apocalyptic consequences that the advocates of further indebtedness predict. In the worst case, we would have to sell oil in Mexican ports and pay for all imports in cash, as we did during the entire 19th century and from 1913 to the 1950's. It is not that much of a problem.

What is hard to understand about our foreign policy is its inconsistency. We are boastful and haughty when it comes to principles, but cowardly when it comes to our interests. Of course there is a very important potential interest behind the principle of nonintervention. The contradiction is that because of that principle or because of the potential interest we pursue a policy of excessive, ongoing confrontation while when our direct, immediate interests are concerned, we are frightened by the possible reaction of the same countries that we oppose on questions of principle. When it comes to something that ought to matter most to us, such as the foreign exchange drain, we give in. We become obsequious and meekly agree to further borrowing. We do not even dare to declare a conciliatory moratorium.

8743

CSO: 3248/133

BERMUEZ ON FUTURE PLANS, UNO-FDN RELATIONS

PA081900 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Jan 87 p 5A

[Interview with Enrique Bermudez, chief of the strategic command of the UNO-FDN, (Nicaraguan Opposition Unity-Nicaraguan Democratic Force), by Pedro Joaquin Chamorro for Firmas Press--no place or date given]

[Text] [Chamorro] If Nicaragua were liberated, what position would you adopt?

[Bermudez] My position would be that of an alert citizen, who will try to make the principles we are struggling for become a reality. I do not foresee a position of power, nor am I seeking one. However, as I am military commander of the FDN, I may have to hold a position within the country's future armed forces, although that possibility is not attractive for me. I feel that with the contribution I am making now, as a Nicaraguan it would be sufficient to see our triumph become a reality.

[Chamorro] Your detractors allege that you were a Somozist because you were a member of the National Gurad until the end. When asked about this, what is your usual response?

[Bermudez] Nicaraguans know perfectly well who is who in our country, they know that some arguments are used for reasons of propaganda, and that the truth lies elsewhere. The perpetrators of crimes and abuses during the Somoza era are well known, as well as those who used military privileges to gain wealth.

Proof that the entire National Guard was not what people say is the fact that in the letter sent by the first government junta to the OAS, the "commitment letter," the junta affirmed that "the new national army would be comprised of members of the National Gurad who were not accused of crimes and of members of the FSLN." The same was stated in the Statute of Rights and Guarantees. There were many military professionals in the National Guard who served an institution and not a person.

[Chamorro] To what extent has your having been an officer of the extinct National Gurad restricted your right as a Nicaraguan to struggle for the liberation of your fatherland, which at present is under a tyranny that is even worse than the National Guard?

[Bermudez] As a Nicaraguan I do not feel any limitations or restrictions of my right to participate in the struggle. The struggle is a duty that we all have and a right that no one can take away from us.

[Chamorro] To what extent is the FDN integrated into the UNO and to what extent has it maintained its own identity?

[Bermudez] The idea of unifying all the anti-Sandinist forces is not new. I advocated that unity from the beginning of the struggle. Even when we were only a small group we felt the need to unite all of the forces in exile. Time has proven me right because now we are a movement, a reality in Nicaragua's future. There will always be political differences, but I believe that UNO is the first step toward unification.

[Chamorro] Should there be an eventual victory over the Sandinist tyranny, would you support the demilitarization of Nicaragua? To what extent?

[Bermudez] I believe that the current militarization of Nicaragua is grossly exaggerated as a result of the expansionistic ambitions of international communism. Nicaragua does not need the disproportionately large army that it currently has. It needs an army adequate to its geographic area and its population.

[Chamorro] Why was the Council of Commanders formed?

[Bermudez] The Council of Commanders is the democratic army in our military structure. It is not an institutionalized army, it is a movement of armed civilians whose individual motivations have led them to take up rifles to defend their rights and struggle for our country's liberation. Its members are volunteers, they are not paid. We are not part of any government but of a struggling political-military movement in which each fighter is free to adhere to the ideology or party of their preference and also has the right to put down their rifle and to in peace wherever they want to.

It is a big mistake to believe that ours is an institutionalized army. I believe that once victory has been achieved, the army will have to be institutionalized. Of course, we maintain a certain level of discipline because all large groups must observe certain rules of conduct.

The Council of Commanders is a democratic institution that discusses the organization's internal problems, analyzes its war strategy and the enemy's weakness and strengths, and makes decisions.

[Chamorro] What military objectives do you hope to achieve with the aid?

[Bermudez] We hope to attack the enemy's vital organs and weaken its structure, and with our growth make much more progress that we have so far. We will try to deepen the crisis the Sandinist regime is currently facing. We are aware of the support that the Sandinists receive from the Soviet Bloc and believe that we deserve more aid so that we can shorten the war. We see that there have been changes within the U.S. Congress, but the permanence of the Sandinists

regime is a threat to the United States, which cannot close its eyes like an ostrich. The United States should be aware of the fact that the Sandinist regime is the first step in the effort to weaken its position in the hemisphere.

[Chamorro] How do you envision the toppling of the Sandinist dictatorship and within what span of time?

[Bermudez] First of all, as Nicaraguans we cannot discuss our country's liberty in terms of time limits. Liberty can never be subjected to time limits. Nicaragua's liberation may take a century... but we must continue the struggle.

The struggle depends on the amount of aid we receive in the future, which will shorten or lengthen its time. The Sandinist regime will inevitably fall because it is rotten to the core.

We know that there are many people within the Sandinist regime itself and its military forces who are not pleased with the course the revolution has followed, but certain conditions must be created before they can express this, before they can speak out. We are struggling to create the necessary climate so that a series of events can take place. We will do everything possible to end the war as soon as possible and avoid greater bloodshed. It falls to the Sandinists to decide if they want this war to continue draining the country or they want to seek a civilized arrangement with the armed resistance.

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CSO: 3248/160

ALLEGED U.S. EXPLOITATION OF BLACKS, LATINS DENOUNCED

PY081415 Asuncion LA TARDE in Spanish 6 Jan 87 p 10

[Editorial: "Labor Rights?"]

[Text] By the mid-19th century, while blacks and whites were mercilessly killing each other in the south, the U.S. Government decided to send a bully to Paraguay to carry out his customary dirty tricks, but he failed to intimidate our government.

In a certain way, the war between blacks and whites continues in the United States. They simply do not tolerate each other. It is a divided society, where whites live on one side, and blacks on the other.

Without fear of exaggerating, we can say that blacks continue to be exploited. They are the ones who do the worst chores. Of course, once in a while, a black occupies an important position for the sake of appearances. The millions of Latin Americans who enter the United States, legally or illegally, share with the blacks the sacrifice of putting their shoulders to the wheel. They represent cheap labor, too cheap. They are the ones, however, who make the U.S. industries, mines, and transportation systems work. They are the ones who till the land in the United States.

If there is a place where the Latin Americans are mistreated, that place is the United States. In that country, men continue to be exploited by man. Latin American men are exploited by American men. It was not by accident that thousands of workers rioted in Chicago.

A dreadful manhunt is taking place along the U.S.-Mexican border. To make things worse, it is conducted for the sake of appearances, to appease those who demand democracy, peace, and liberty. The Mexicans who enter the United States without documents, represent good business for the Americans, because they work for peanuts. How many Mexicans must have been killed in these arid regions and the war is still going on.

The U.S. problem has to do with labor rights. The blacks and the Latin Americans who work there can confirm this. The U.S. has a twisted labor law. However, the U.S. Government, in keeping with its inconsistence has declared to "sanction" Paraguay--the stronghold that defends its interests from

communism--for violating labor rights. What violations? Does Paraguay exploit blacks and Latin Americans and make them work for peanuts from sunrise to sunset?

How can the United States talk of violations of labor rights if it sells wheat to those who daily violate these rights?

Yes, the United States sells wheat to the USSR, its enemy, our enemy, and takes the break away from a Latin American country, from a friendly country, which is our friend and a brother. These contradictions are possibly only in the minds of those who are deeply involved in the Irangate scandal, in drug trafficking, and in the ousting of so many foreign presidents.

/9274
CSO: 3348/185

PARAGUAYAN COMMUNISTS VISIT HUNGARY

LD071918 Budapest MTI in English 1822 GMT 7 Dec 86

[Text] Budapest, 7 Dec (MTI)--On invitation of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party a delegation of the Communist Party of Paraguay headed by Ananias Maidana, member of the party's political committee, visited Hungary 1st to 7th December.

The delegation was received by Matyas Szuros, secretary of the CC of the HSWP. The delegation held talks with Geza Kotai, head of the foreign relations department of the CC. The Paraguayan guests held meetings with Gyula Virizlay, secretary of the Central Council of Hungarian Trade Unions, with Bela Molnar, secretary of the National Council of the Patriotic People's Front and with Peter Emod, secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Communist Youth Union.

At the talks, held in a cordial, comradely atmosphere, the representatives of the two parties mutually briefed one another on the situations of their parties and countries.

They exchanged views on topical issues of international politics, and on the situation of the international communist and workers' movement under the sign of an identity of views.

The leading representatives of the HSWP and the Hungarian mass organizations expressed the solidarity of the Hungarian communists and all of the Hungarian people with the sacrificial struggle of the Paraguayan communists. They insured the patriotic forces of Paraguay of their support in the struggle against the dictatorship oppressing the people. They took a position condemning the threats against the lives of Antonio Maidana, unlawfully detained general secretary of the communist party of Paraguay and several thousand other Paraguayan communists who are imprisoned.

The representatives of the two parties indicated that the HSWP and the Communist Party of Paraguay would continue to strengthen their internationalist relations.

The delegation of the Communist Party of Paraguay left Hungary Sunday.

/9274
CSO: 3348/185

ABC DIRECTOR SEES 'SURPRISE' IN 1988 ELECTIONS

PY192245 Paris AFP in Spanish 1541 GMT 19 Jan 87

[Text] Paris, 19 Jan (AFP)--Aldo Zuccolillo, director of the newspaper ABC COLOR of Asuncion, Paraguay, told AFP today that there might be a surprise in the February 1988 elections in Paraguay, provided the opposition can manage to present a single candidate and the elections can be internationally supervised.

Zuccolillo, who is in Paris to attend a seminar on press censorship, reasserted that the Paraguayan opposition must overcome its differences and present an independent presidential candidate in order to put an end to the oldest dictatorship in Latin America, which came to power in 1954.

Although recognizing that there is a long way to go to overcome the differences, he said that lawyer Guillermo Caballero, the son of a former leader of the Paraguayan Socialist Party, would be an excellent candidate for a united opposition.

Compared with Stroessner, Zuccolillo observed, the Chilean General Augusto Pinochet is an apprentice dictator. He was referring to the maneuvering ability of the Paraguayan president, who prepares his political moves well ahead of time by combining his knowledge of military strategy and chess.

After recalling that ABC COLOR has been suspended indefinitely since March 1984, Zuccolillo noted that Paraguay is under strict censorship, but the press is tolerated to some extent in order to shield the country from strong world criticism. He warned against illusions that Stroessner might not run for reelection in 1988 because, should that be the case, a puppet would take his place.

Zuccolillo warned that with a state of siege, police-repressed opposition, fettered political parties, assemblies subject to previous permission, the elections, even if Stroessner does not run, will do nothing but legitimize the regime.

If a constituent assembly to overturn the freedom-constricting laws and write a new constitution is to be feasible, Stroessner must not be a candidate and must step down from the post of commander in chief of the Paraguayan Armed Forces, Zuccolillo added.

The ABC COLOR publisher pointed out that by eliminating a genuine entrepreneurial class, the dictatorship stymies development and gives rise to false businessmen, who keep the millions they earn in Swiss bank accounts. This is one of the dictatorship's most dire consequences.

On the other hand, Zuccolillo observed, the international situation has changed markedly in Latin America with the emergence of democratic regimes in recent years in Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay. This environment creates a real possibility for ending the totalitarian system in Paraguay, he added.

The goal of the opposition must be to win back democracy, which by itself will not solve the economic problems, but will point the way to solving them, Zuccolillo said, adding that peace in Paraguay at present is the peace of silence and fear--Stroessner's peace.

Just as corrupt generals can be found in the ranks of the Armed Forces, distinguished and honest individuals who know the role of the military should play in a democracy can also be found, the newspaper publisher asserted.

He concluded by saying that if the opposition can manage to unite behind a single candidate, and if there is sufficient international pressure for the elimination of the most flagrant abuses, along with some form of control, February 1988 may produce a surprise.

/9274

CSO: 3348/184

RADIO NANDUTI EMPLOYEES LAID OFF

PY102241 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 10 Jan 87 p 18

[Text] Radio Nanduti's problems are growing, specifically regarding its employees. Because of the jamming, Radio Nanduti is unable to broadcast its daily programs or commercials. This means that the radio is losing income and that it is unable to continue paying the salaries of its employees, who until today have been receiving their monthly checks.

It has been learned in the last few days that Radio Nanduti directors will reportedly start laying off some of its employees since the station is not making the necessary income to pay the salaries of the more than 60 people who make up the Radio Nanduti crew.

As for the jamming, it is reported that it continues. Radio Nanduti Director Humberto Rubin has submitted, on more than one occasion, the proper reports, but so far the problem remains unsolved. According to Radio Nanduti sources, because of the jamming over 60 employees will now be without jobs thus

/9274
CSO, 3348/185

BRIEFS

AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH ISRAEL--The Paraguayan Government yesterday signed agreements with the Israeli Government in the fields of permits for amateur radio operators, trade, and economic cooperation. The documents were signed by Foreign Minister Carlos Augusto Saldivar and Israeli Ambassador David Morag. [Summary] [Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 3 Jan 87 p 12 PY] /9274

FRG PRESSURE AGAINST STROESSNER DEMANDED--Bonn, 20 Jan (EFE)--Helmut Schaefer, foreign policy spokesman for the German Liberal Party FDP, is demanding that the Bonn Government exert increasing political pressure on the "totalitarian regime" of Paraguay. Schaefer recalled that the closing of the only opposition radio station in Paraguay recently is new evidence that General Alfredo Stroessner is repressing democracy in this country. The FDP politician affirmed that it is "absolutely unacceptable" for Stroessner to make an official visit to the FRG with his record of oppressive subjugation of the Paraguayan people. Schaefer demanded that the FRG Development Assistance Minister Jergen Warnke impose on Paraguay the same discriminatory measures applied to Nicaragua. Finally, the German politician noted that it is "incomprehensible" that the Development Assistance Ministry should avoid any kind of contact with the extreme leftist Sandinists while maintaining friendly relations with the extreme rightist regime of Paraguay. [Text] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 1724 GMT 20 Jan 87 PY] /9274

YPACARAI COLORADO MEMBER HELD INCOMMUNICADO--Reliable sources indicated that Justo Parket, president of the Colorado Party precinct of the Palma District in Ypacarai, who was under arrest in the Central Police headquarters was transferred yesterday to the former Security Guard facilities, where he is being held incommunicado. The sources indicated that Parket's brother, Cristino Parket, tried to see him but was unable to do so because he is being held incommunicado. They also added that Justo Parket was arrested without a legal warrant. Apparently he was arrested for participating in a demonstration in a park on 13 January. The demonstration was organized by leaders of the Ypacarai Colorado Party Precinct which has been intervened by the Colorado Party leadership. [Text] [Asuncion HOY in Spanish 18 Jan 87 p 14 PY] /9274

PEASANTS BEGIN HUNGER STRIKE--Caaguazu, Paraguay, 15 Jan (AFP)--Paraguayan Peasant Movement (MCP) [Movimiento Campesino Paraguayo] sources today told AFP that some 50 peasants have begun a hunger strike in a Catholic Church in Caaguazu, 190 km east of Asuncion. The hunger strike is being staged to express solidarity with 50 peasant families who are facing eviction from their

land. MCP sources announced that more hunger strikes, protesting the imminent eviction of peasants from the Tavapy II settlement, which is located in Alto Parana Department, (300 km east of Asuncion), will be held in 10 Paraguayan departments where MCP branch offices were located. The nearly 4,000 Tavapy II peasants are now surrounded by some 200 soldiers, who are led by Army officers, and policemen and, according to some priests who are making efforts to prevent the eviction, the peasants are banned from entering or leaving the settlement. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 0352 GMT 16 Jan 87 PY] /9274

CSO: 3348/184

REPORT OF NATIONAL PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Lima UNIDAD in Spanish 1 Dec 86 pp 6-7

[Text] At a press conference the members of the National People's Assembly Organizing Committee explained how they are working on forging a political and social trade union movement that will lead us down the road to liberation, peace, and social justice.

In this report we are publishing the press statement that was released by the joint presidium headed by Pablo Checa of the General Confederation of Peruvian Workers (CGTP), Ricardo Letts of the Sole Agrarian Central Organization (CUNA), and Cesar Pasalacqua of the Intersectorial Confederation of Public Employees (CITE). The opinions of Isidoro Gamarra and Pablo Checa, president and assistant undersecretary general of the CGTP, were also incorporated.

Press Statement

The People's Assembly is a new form of organizing the Peruvian people's movement. It has strong revolutionary democratic features, and it coordinates and centralizes the various organizational elements and actions of common struggle on the basis of its program, the Platform of the Peruvian People.

The National People's Assembly (ANP) is a stable, permanent, and representative body that centralizes debate and decisionmaking on the fundamental problems of our country in accordance with the principles of the Sole Front, and of all the anti-imperialist, democratic, and revolutionary currents that are organized throughout the country. Its establishment should be regarded not as an isolated event, but as a process aimed at building it from the ground up, from bottom to top.

The main foundations on which the construction of the ANP will be based and on which the ANP itself will rest are the working class and the peasantry, within the natural trade union, popular, and political organizations, in both rural and urban areas, which are the most stable, nationally representative, and traditionally combative; the national organizations that link students, women, and professionals; and the experiences of the regional and local popular movement, such as the Defense Front, and the District Assemblies and Councils where the popular survival organizations and the various neighborhood organizations come together.

The National People's Assembly aims at the following objectives: providing the popular and democratic movement with a single, representative forum that is capable of giving guidance on the basis of the struggle for the change that the country needs; developing the national, political, democratic, and anti-imperialist consciousness of the popular movement; and strengthening the popular organizations so that they can defend and fight for their own interests, independence, and national development.

The National People's Assembly intends to struggle for a New Peru, and it intends to win. This will be a peaceful Peru with a foundation of Social Justice that is democratic and popular, decentralized and regionalized; a Peru made up of all the bloodlines and all the cultures of the country; an autonomous, sovereign, nationalist and anti-imperialist Peru; a developed, non-aligned Peru that shows solidarity with other countries; a Peru, in sum, that is on the road to socialism.

To achieve this end, the National People's Assembly must form a unifying center, the space and instrument of the combative unity of all organizations, institutions, sectors, groups, and individuals that aspire to attain the revolutionary transformation of our fatherland, to build a New Peru.

The ANP, in keeping with a historic tradition of popular struggles, is a qualitative leap forward in terms of organization, unity, and centralization, and thus will begin to be an embryonic experience in people's power.

Government Running Out of Alternatives

After nearly a year and a half under the administration of Alan Garcia Perez and the Aprista Party of Peru, it is clear that the stumbling blocks which prevented the country from solving its major national problems are still there, and in fact have been untouched. The task of contending with these problems with an alternative identified with the desire to transform the country, a desire shared by the vast majority of the population, remains undone.

The sociopolitical program of the Aprista government, which represents the various sectors of the bourgeoisie, is hitting hard at the working sectors, and is manipulating the people's poverty in an effort to pit them against the more organized and combative sectors. Its intention is to maintain capitalism, redefining the terms of imperialist exploitation. For this purpose it has focused on short-term measures. It has brought down the rate of inflation, but it is still at a high level, a heavy burden for the low-income sectors to bear. The historic structural roots of these problems remain intact. The long-standing ills of backwardness, social injustice, and oppression remain with us. The American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) not only has no intention of facing and resolving them, but is now obviously looking to big capital to forge a closer alliance.

Democracy, Not Authoritarianism

The APRA government is directly and primarily responsible, in political terms, for the genocide that was perpetrated on 19 June at the Lima prisons of El Fronton and Lurigancho, against political prisoners belonging to Sendero Luminoso [Shining Path]. This crime, which has gone unpunished, means that the militarization of the country has reached a peak. No Investigative Commission was formed; the case was turned over to military justice authorities, which means that impunity will be assured.

The Aprista government is responsible for the fraudulent elections that were held nationally on 9 November. It has been proven that the state used a variety of methods to give immoral preference to one party, the Aprista Party of Peru. Money from the Departmental Development Corporation (CORDE), the prefectures and subprefectures, the use of the balcony at the Palace of Government, and the highest-ranking officials of the government--the state placed all this at the service of the Aprista Party. Article 70 of the Constitution, however, provides that "the state shall not give preference to any political party." This article of the Constitution has been violated. This is a serious irregularity. It is cause for annulling the elections.

The latest and most serious case has been the brutal massacre of the miners of Canarias, Posco, and Aguila at the gates of the Economy and Finance Ministry. The Organizing Committee of the National People's Assembly has already taken a public stand on this issue (by means of a communique published in the daily LA VOZ on 11/20/86, titled "Miners' Blood on APRA's Hands"). Numerous miners were seriously injured, and in addition to the bloodshed, the authorities thumb their noses at the workers and refuse to provide a solution to their problems. The Mining Bank has sent the workers back to the Labor Ministry. Meanwhile, what has been done to punish the owners of the large companies that are to blame for these and other mine closings, which were carried out for deceitful and fraudulent purposes? Nothing. They, like so many others--drug traffickers and other criminals--can safely rely on important government sectors to come to their defense. These sectors will find some way to make excuses for them, conceal their wrongdoing, protect them, release them, and assure them of impunity.

One indication of the interests the APRA government serves is the establishment of the PROEM and the attempt to formalize it by law. Through the PROEM, national businessmen are guaranteed cheap labor, with an unconstitutional lack of job security and union rights. This labor policy is the other side of the coin, on which we have authoritarianism that has no respect for the human being and regards him as an object to be used and exploited, even politically, with no dialogue on labor issues.

Pernicious Alliance

At the Annual Conference of Business Executives (CADE) in Huaraz, the entire country saw how the principal leaders of finance and industry (that is, the great capitalists of the country, who have close ties to imperialist capital) have given their strongest and most enthusiastic backing to the APRA plans announced by Garcia Perez. This situation gives a preview of what will happen

in 1987. This summit alliance between the government and the Peruvian monopolists reinforces the trend toward authoritarianism in the country.

At the same time, the raise that was finally granted to the non-unionized sector (it took from February to October to get it), enabling this sector to receive the Minimum Legal Income, has not been enough to offset the rate of inflation. What APRA claimed at the beginning of its term is no longer true. Now this government too is increasing the pain and suffering of the people by widening the gap between rich and poor, and lowering the income of approximately 40 percent of the wage-earning population.

The equalization that important labor sectors are struggling so valiantly to obtain has been snatched from their grasp once again. It has not been implemented, and in fact a deceitful farce has been carried out.

Meanwhile, however, medicine prices have gone up again, this time by 12 percent. A similar fate has befallen rice again, and wheat imports continue to rise, even though it is known that this guarantees declining production of Peruvian foods that could replace this product. In fact, these foods, such as the potato which is indigenous to our country and which we have had to import in the last year, actually compete with wheat.

Coastal fishermen have been bilked by the National Fishing Society. This organization is in violation of the agreement that was signed, and is not adhering to the international prices that were agreed upon as a reference. This is highway robbery, and we emphatically condemn it.

To struggle against all this, through our Platform of the Peruvian People, the movement that is progressing toward the National People's Assembly has begun and is well underway.

Lima, 27 November 1986

8926

CSO: 3348/166

RESULTS OF PCP PLENUM, 29-30 NOVEMBER 1986

Lima UNIDAD in Spanish 8 Dec 86 pp 6-7

[Text] Strengthening the grassroots organizations, revitalizing the work of United Left (IU) among the masses, defending the unity of leftist forces, and working for the success of the National People's Assembly are the best ways to deal with the increasing authoritarianism of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) and defeating its attempts to remain in power until the year 2000. These and other conclusions were approved by the plenum of the Central Committee of the Peruvian Communist Party (PCP), held in Lima on 29 and 30 November.

The report presented to the plenum of the Peruvian Communist Party Central Committee by Jorge del Prado was debated exhaustively and thoroughly on 29 and 30 November. The report analyzes the municipal election process, which has been challenged, APRA's economic and labor policy, and the PCP's relations with United Left.

After pointing out that the recent elections had "more than local implications" and were "politically significant," the secretary general explained that APRA's nationwide victory nonetheless was accompanied "by a notable decline in the number of votes." United Left, on the other hand, remains in second place, while the turncoat right "has not moved out of last place."

He remarked that despite the situation that lies ahead in terms of the number of mayoral offices won by APRA and IU, this "shows clearly that IU, though it lost not a few cities, continues to be a force on the rise."

These have been "the most manipulated and dirtiest elections in recent decades," he asserted. "The fact is that the elections and the will of the electorate were distorted even before the election itself, the casting of ballots," he emphasized later on. He detailed all the manipulations that the APRA government machine used to achieve this "triumph," ranging from Alan Garcia's "balconazo" [balcony appearances] to the coercion of PAIT workers into voting for ruling-party candidates. Thus, "all the constitutional precepts, such as the ethical principles of the bourgeois democracy, which clearly establish that the state apparatus, government resources, and the

instruments of coercion and imposition that it possesses should not be used to benefit any political party," were left by the wayside.

He argued that the results of these elections constituted a "Pyrrhic victory" for APRA, because it "gambled and lost all of the democratic credibility it had had up to that point."

He pointed out that this has exposed APRA's desire to monopolize power, which has also become a preamble to what will happen in the general elections of 1990. At that time, there is no doubt that it will mobilize "all of the immense power of the state to transfer and reduce those electoral processes to a mere formality for the purpose of perpetuating its own power."

He stated that this "fraudulent manipulation" of the balloting "has been aimed primarily against the left," and that its plans for the immediate future also call for eliminating or curtailing as much as possible the rights of that great popular force so that APRA's will can be imposed by force. This also means that APRA is aware that it has not satisfied the workers with its labor policy, and that the people, "the vast majority of them, condemn the repressive policy that is no different from the previous administration's."

What happened in these elections, along with the massacres of those accused of crimes of terrorism in the El Fronton, Santa Barbara, and Lurigancho Prisons, confirms that "territory is being ceded to the Pentagon militarists and (APRA) is allowing itself to be taken over by that ultra-rightist force that compelled it to take such a tack in its relations with the people." In this section he commented that "all of this would suggest that it is sliding precipitously toward a virtual antipopular dictatorship."

He also questioned the proclamation of presidential "reelection" issued by Premier Luis Alva Castro. Making "such a proposal at a time when the political environment was clouded by the initial complaints against the APRA government's gross manipulation of the elections was an affront that offended the democratic sensibility of our people," he declared.

Referring to a possible explanation of the APRA government's attitude in the municipal elections, Del Prado stated that an electoral defeat just 15 months after taking the reins of power would bring it up against a "critical dilemma: Either it substantially modified its domestic policy on the aforementioned matters to give it a nationalist and popular, genuinely democratic and patriotic character in keeping with its international policy; or it gave in to renewed pressure from the turncoat right which, as we have pointed out many times, has three powerful enclaves of power within the state machinery: in the economic sphere with its transnational orientation, in the forces of repression with its pro-Pentagon orientation, and in the judiciary, which is dominated by the traditional ultrareactionary, corrupt right."

In view of this dilemma, the APRA government "decided to impose its own capitalist alternative at all costs. This alternative leans more to the right, but it is under APRA's control, or at least assures a recognized and leading role for the Aprista Party of Peru (PAP)." He added that this is in line with the resurgence of old concepts of "an Aprist state," totalitarian or

semitotalitarian, which, to take their word for it, would be "a state that would not be classically capitalist or socialist, but in between those two systems. It would not be based on the nationalization and socialization of the principal means of production, but rather on the maintenance of private ownership of these means, that is, maintaining the capitalist system but placing it under state control and planning. Thus, it would be virtually capitalist and inserted in the same system." By the same token, in the economic sphere, although it can come out against the International Monetary Fund (IMF), it will nevertheless not adopt any positions that would be "anticapitalist or outside of that system."

One example of this is the economic measures adopted by Premier Alva Castro, who revamped the groundwork of the 1986 budget, the so-called 10-percent thesis for the payment of the foreign debt, and the "letter of intent" that has been signed with the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). These measures, which would merely replace the IMF with the IADB, are of questionable value and are harmful to the interests of the majority.

"The new attitude of the APRA government toward the large business groups is in keeping with its retreat in response to the pressure exerted by domestic big business," he stated. He went on to note that among these concessions is the guarantee of "sufficient profits on productive investments, a series of agreements that virtually embody the principle of free enterprise or economic liberalism." Thus, the central power acts as a "benefactor state" that is concerned only with helping the most impoverished sectors of the country. At the same time, incentives would be provided to boost consumerism and expand the capitalist market.

He also questioned the new steps the government has taken toward reaching an understanding with the IMF through the IADB. Among other things, they are reportedly pressuring the government to sell the public enterprises in order to "provide incentives for private investment." The handling of inflation also fits within this matrix. He did not deny that some achievements have been made, but in their daily lives housewives still come up against an incessant rise in prices. He indicated that the volume of food, petroleum, and rubber production has declined, on the other hand, while it has gone up in the areas of beverages, basic metals, equipment machinery, electrical appliances, and fishmeal (nearly all of these are nontraditional exports encouraged by CENTEX).

"In short, the government is moving toward consolidating an understanding with the domestic bourgeoisie, giving it a nationalist (but bourgeois) spirit," asserted Del Prado.

The APRA government's labor policy, in contrast, "has not undergone any modification with respect to the policy pursued by the Popular Christian Party administration: refusing to accept the workers' just protests and brutally repressing them. What is worse, the APRA government is more systematically closed-minded when it comes to dialogue."

"Unable to solve the needs of the working class, unable to emerge from the crisis, and unable to prevent the intensification of the class struggle and

popular discontent, the government will most likely try to use the same gross and audacious manipulation that it employed in the municipal elections to deal with the labor movement, the peasant movement, the slum-dwellers' movement, etc. The ruling party will most likely try to use this technique to violently compensate for the disadvantage it has with respect to IU in terms of its organized social base. It is also conceivable that this will be one of the commitments it makes both to big business and to the civilian far right and the pro-Pentagon sector of the Armed Forces."

After making this point, he went on to discuss the government's international political policy, which is still positive, primarily in terms of solidarity with Nicaragua against armed U.S. aggression, with Argentina against the English imperialist offensive aimed at consolidating the usurpation of the Malvinas, and with the struggles of the Chilean people to restore democracy. He expressed serious concern, however, about the possibility that this correct international policy will be substantially modified as democratic rights are trampled, the economic policy turns to the right, and the labor policy becomes harsher and more pro-management. Maintaining a correct international policy in all these cases requires very strong domestic support, and this backing can be guaranteed only if the government moves closer to the people and if the people believe in the government. The APRA government is not following this path, as it conflicts with the distortion of democratic rights and with the increasing power of the turncoat rightist forces within APRA and the government.

Finally, he mentioned United Left and its performance in the election campaign and its historic role. He said that "it would be easy, but also erroneous and irresponsible, to claim that the negative result of these municipal elections is due solely to the arrogant and unscrupulous manipulation by the APRA government. This would mean overlooking or trying to ignore or hide the responsibility shared by United Left, its candidates, and its member parties," he commented.

He added that "our conduct as the principal opposition force and alternative to the government (referring to IU) should be oriented, first of all, toward defending, from the grassroots organizations, the new forms of popular participation that leftist municipal governments have created: Mothers Clubs, Glass of Milk distribution committees, neighborhood committees and boards, executive committees of residential developments, etc. Secondly, we should give more priority than before to IU's work in labor, peasant, neighborhood, student, professional, artisan, cultural, women's, and youth organizations, among others. Thirdly, we should stress the anti-imperialist, patriotic, democratic, and moralizing content not only of our proposals, but also of our practical activity, taking care not to lapse into blind and unthinking opposition."

Referring to the PCP, Del Prado argued that "without being guilty of triumphalism," our contribution to the functioning of IU and to a successful electoral campaign has been correct and proper. "Objectively," he added, "any observer of IU would agree that our party has made a tremendous effort to maintain unity and overcome discord within the CDN." Finally, he acknowledged that "our attention to the electoral campaign in the provinces was deficient."

BUDGETARY DEFICIT LARGER THAN ANTICIPATED

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 15 Dec 86 p B-26

[Text] In real terms (millions of December 1985 intis), the deficit in the current General Budget of the Republic is larger than expected.

As of September 1986, according to the information that appears in the weekly note of the Central Reserve Bank, the budget is 2.227 billion intis in the red, compared to a projected deficit of 750 million intis.

Current executed revenues exceed the projected amount by 4 billion intis (30.640 billion vs. 26.788 billion intis), but current expenditures have risen from 19.757 billion to 26.141 billion intis. There have been increases in salaries, goods and services, transfers, and interest payments.

In this connection, it is noted that 2.376 billion intis was earmarked for the debt service, while 4.871 billion intis was agreed upon.

(The budgeted figures include the scheduled foreign debt service that has been met, while the executed figures include the sum total of the debt service that is due, according to Weekly Note No. 48 of the Central Reserve Bank.)

Which tax revenues have grown beyond projections?

Real Income Fluctuated

Income tax collections were estimated at 3.175 billion intis and actually amounted to 6.422 billion; taxes on foreign trade were pegged at 5.764 billion and actually totaled 6.412 billion intis; the taxes on production and consumption, in contrast, fell short of the projected 15.183 billion intis, with a recorded total of 14.260 billion; fuel tax revenues also dropped below the initial calculation, with 8.039 billion intis instead of 8.255 billion.

Table 48 of the weekly note shows how real revenues fluctuated between January and October 1986 (at December 1982 prices).

The highest month, with seasonal adjustments, was April, with 454 million intis, due to the regularizations. There are valleys and peaks throughout the period. January started out with 298 million intis, February followed with 207 million, March with 201 million, May with 219 million, June with 218 million, July with 238 million, August with 191 million, September with 224 million, and October with 195 million intis.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION TO INCREASE 6.3 PERCENT IN 1987

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 21 Dec 86 p A-12

[Text] The 1986-1987 Production Program of the Agriculture Ministry forecasts a 6.3-percent growth rate in agriculture-livestock production for next year, reported Rigoberto Sierra yesterday. Sierra is director general of agriculture and livestock in the agricultural sector.

He stated that, contrary to the assertions of some individuals, since August of this year there has been a short-term program (the 1986-1987 Production Program) which sets forth production targets, the planting plan, and needs for financing, fertilizers, and the like.

Rice Recovers, Cotton Declines

He stated that the most noteworthy aspects of this program lie in the recuperation of rice production, which is expected to grow by 31.7 percent over the 1986 total; in terms of production, this will mean approximately 1 million tons.

He added that another product which will also have a significant impact on growth is potatoes, with an 18-percent increase, equivalent to 1.9 million tons.

After mentioning other crops that are showing positive growth, such as wheat (24 percent more than last year), soybeans, and sorghum, he reported that under the Production Program, one product that is expected to have negative growth is cotton. It will decline by 17.3 percent due to the low price on the international market.

Slow Growth in Livestock Sector

With regard to the livestock sector, he indicated that in 1987 it will grow very slowly because of the serious decapitalization it has suffered over the last few years. The primary cause of this drain has been adverse natural phenomena, such as the droughts of 1983 and 1984, when significant portions of the herd were slaughtered before their time.

"In this sector, poultry is emerging as the principal area of production; it has shown significant growth, and accounts for 13.4 percent of the sector's growth. This represents an annual production of more than 250,000 tons of poultry," he stated.

18 Billion Intis Assured

On the other hand, he reported that the Production Program calls for financing of 18 billion intis; since this figure has been computed in conjunction with the Agrarian Bank and the Central Reserve Bank, its allocation is assured.

He stated that fertilizer needs have also been calculated at 483,000 tons, of which 250,000 tons corresponds to urea. "The increase in this category amounts to 60 percent more than what was used in 1986," he pointed out.

He also said that the need for seeds has been estimated, and that this subsector is not yet very dynamic, given that few crops have improved seeds.

As for agricultural machinery, he indicated that this need is still not being met fully; of the 10,000 tractors needed in the country, to date only 5,000 are available. Of them, 2,500 remain idle due to a lack of spare parts and because they have reached the end of their useful life.

"In order to expand the fleet of agricultural machinery, the government has implemented legal measures to allow duty-free imports of tractors and equipment for direct use in agriculture. Any natural or moral person may import such equipment without obtaining any certification from the Agriculture Ministry," he added.

8926
CSO: 3348/165

BRIEFS

NINTH PCP CONGRESS--The 9th Regular Congress of the Peruvian Communist Party (PCP) will be held from 27 to 31 May 1987, and the work schedule is already being drawn up to ensure a successful congress. These organic agreements were made at the 16th Plenary Session of the PCP Central Committee, held in Lima on 29 and 30 November. The central report, whose features we have reported elsewhere, was written under the direction of Comrade Jorge del Prado, secretary general of the PCP. It won the support and approval of the participants. To carry out the organization of the debate, those present at the session agreed to the immediate printing of the Theses (the central document of the 9th Congress), the approval of the Work Regulations, and the drafting and approval of the Bylaws Modifications Proposal. These documents will be sent to the party organizations during the month of December. The 16th Plenum also passed motions to express solidarity with Nicaragua and Argentina, and authorized a statement on the serious situation the world faces as a result of the war-mongering, manipulative policy of the Reagan administration, which is aggravating crises in the Middle East and other sensitive spots in the world. [Text] [Lima UNIDAD in Spanish 8 Dec 86 p 7] 8926

'CHAOS' IN CANTOGRANDE PRISON --The recent riot at the Cantogrande prison, in which two inmates were killed and one was wounded, simply leads us to think that despite the official announcements on the arrangement of the security systems, that prison remains awash in chaos and internal disorder. This has been confirmed by no less than the minister of justice and the president of the National Penitentiary Institute (INPE), who have pointed out that all the locks in Ward 2-B, where the bloody events took place, are broken. Reliable spokesmen for the prison stated that the prisoners have "made themselves at home" in the corridors of their wards. "They have practically taken over the wards. They come and go from their cells without any control," they added. In addition, this riot has brought to light once again the presence of bladed weapons in this "maximum security" prison. How can this kind of weapon get into the penitentiary, everyone is asking. Because of the lack of control, the inmates have broken the bars on their cells and have stolen trays, plates, pots, and the like, with which they make their own weapons. It is said that the inmates have used kidnapping to practically take over Ward 2-B, where they do whatever they please with no control. This chaotic situation was exposed by EL COMERCIO in the special report it published last November. There we warned that the prisoners had taken over their wards, that no security system was operating, and that the staff in charge of guarding the prisoners left a

lot to be desired. Just a few days later, two kidnappers escaped with the help of a bad employee. A week later a massive escape attempt was thwarted. As a result, the INPE and the Justice Ministry announced that all locks will be repaired, as will the security systems. An allocation of 1.5 million intis was set aside for this purpose. More than a month has gone by since those announcements, and so far the situation remains the same. [Text] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 31 Dec 86 p A-11] 8926

POLICE PROMOTIONS--The Police Force promotions proposed by the executive branch have been confirmed. Civil Guard Gen Alberto A. Bernedo Moscoso (40-4) has been promoted to Police Force general; Cols Lizandro Alvitez Falcon (40-5), Luis Benito Toledo Mayo (37-4), Julio Cesar Picoaga Godoy (39-3), Anibal Baca Astete (39-5), and Oswaldo Alfredo Diaz Salvador (36-5) have been made Civil Guard generals. In addition, Peruvian Investigative Police (PIP) Cols Juan Salas Cornejo (32-10), Juan Durand Vizcardo (37-6), and Luis Ruiz Paz (37-6) were also promoted to general; and Republican Guard Cols Jose G. Zuta Valqui (36-5) and Juan Bautista Cabanillas (40-1) were given the rank of general in that corps. [Text] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 14 Dec 86 p A-4] 8926

CSO: 3348/165

PLP ORGAN COMMENTS ON USE OF TROOPS IN GRENADA

Castries CRUSADER in English 6 Dec 86 p 2

[Editorial: "Why Did Compton Respond to Blaize?"]

[Text]

The Caribbean people are usually silent bystanders when the most crucial decisions about their future and their welfare are taken by leaders who have shown a marked propensity for bungling and wrong-headedness.

This week R.S.L. made a casual announcement that St.Lucia SSU men would proceed to Grenada in response to some vague request by Prime Minister Blaize of Grenada for assistance in dealing with his local situation. The reasons for Blaize's request for paramilitary help is anything but clear. He cites the possibility of trouble when the Court hands down it's decision in the Maurice Bishop trials. He also vaguely claims that recently shots have been heard all over the place and no doubt the Christmas round of violence and robbery is in train. All these are purely internal matters which should be within the competence of Grenada's Police. As a matter of fact the Grenadians were the greatest beneficiaries of the American training along paramilitary lines.

The domestic political situation in Grenada has predictably been deteriorating for some time and Mr. Blaize seems very much like an old man dancing on a stick of time. He is clearly unable to stem his own political tide and this is the real crisis in Grenada. The results of the Maurice Bishop trials should have very little to do with the mood and atmosphere in Grenada. After all the main protagonists are all under the custody of the Government and a tightening of internal prison security during this period is all that should be necessary. If on the other hand the Prime Minister is admitting that public sympathy for the defendants should lead to violent unrest then this is an admission of no mean order and a terrible indictment of his own Government.

Defence and security matters have been treated as "holy ground" in the Caribbean where the tradition for the preservation of human rights is not well established. In St.Lucia the England Family was whistled

away on the wildest of charges and the Government used the SECURITY blanket to relieve them of the responsibility for proving their charges. In recent weeks the American public is fully alive to the misdeeds and injustices which can be carried out in the name of DEFENCE and SECURITY. In St.Lucia we are without the protection of a vigilant Congress and the accountability of the Prime Minister in such matters is almost non-existent. Consequently the Public must show greater interest and awareness in such matters when dangerous precedents are being created.

Even from the inception of the Regional Security System Prime Minister Bird of Antigua with the simplicity of senility announced to the entire Caribbean that the purpose of the RSS was to prevent the subversion and destabilisation of Right Wing Government. Since then Prime Minister Mitchell of St.Vincent has put on record the attempt of Ex-Prime Minister Cato to summon the RSS in response to his electoral defeat. These are very ominous events which should cast their shadows on the deployment of the Regional Force. Who indeed should press the button for the activation of the RSS? And what should be the criterion for a positive response? The Memorandum of Understanding is not at all clear on this, and the precedents being set now will determine the "modus operandi" of the RSS from here onwards.

After Prime Minister Mitchell's experience it must be clear to him

that our leaders are not beyond abusing the objectives of the RSS and using the system as a device for their own self protection and for perpetuating their regimes. How is Mitchell to know that Prime Minister Blaize is not using the RSS to shore up his own tottering regime? Did Prime Minister Compton of St.Lucia respond so promptly to Blaize because he is naturally hawkish in such affairs or because he himself is banking on the service of the RSS for his forthcoming election?

The excuse that Prime Minister Barrow of Barbados was not approached because he was out of the state is both ridiculous and transparent. The double standards of St.Vincent's Mitchell in agreeing to despatch his policemen requires some explanation.

The Caribbean People must now alert themselves to the dangerous possibilities inherent in the RSS with a clutch of leaders who are as ruthless as they are unprincipled. There is no clear distinction between EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE and INTERNAL DISORDER as was present in the Defence arrangements between Britain and the Associated States, so now Prime Minister Blaize can hear riots in the night and immediately round-up his East Caribbean Posse of sharpshooters. There are untold dangers and horrors in this situation and the checks and balances are insufficient to protect the Caribbean from its Leaders.

/9317
CSO: 3298/102

HUNTE HIT FOR SUPPORTING CBI AFTER COMPTON'S REJECTION

Castries CRUSADER in English 8 Nov 86 pp 2, 8

[Editorial: "The CBI--Who Is the Knave? Who Is the Fool?"]

[Text]

This week the Leader of the St.Lucia Labour Party in his desperate bid to convince the electorate that he is "au fait" with Caribbean issues made a statement to Radio Antilles on the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI)

Mr.Julian Hunte told Radio Antilles that the CBI was in fact a good package and the fact that it failed was only because the Government did not prepare the people to take full advantage of the benefits which CBI offered.

Many of us can recall the early days in 1982 when President Reagan revealed his CBI arrangements to the Caribbean. Prime Minister Compton was then an

Opposition Leader and he promptly welcomed the CBI as "the greatest thing to happen to the Caribbean since the Marshall Plan". Mr.Compton, naively or naivishly, went on to say that in a few years the CBI would transform the Caribbean beyond our wildest dreams. This statement was made in a National Interview on Television prior to the 1982 General Elections.

In a similar National Interview the Leader of the Progressive Labour Party George Odlum was asked to give his impression of the CBI. He said that while St.Lucia was not in a position to turn its back completely on such an offer of aid from the United States he was forced to criticise the package heavily because it conformed more to the Geo-Political interests of the United States than to the economic needs of the Caribbean. He went on to say that the CBI was designed to force a free-enterprise private sector growth model on Caribbean Economies denying them the option of experimenting with other growth models. Mr.Odlum also criticised the militaristic designs of the CBI and exposed some of its weaknesses in promoting rapid Industrialisation through expanded export production.

Today in 1986 Prime Minister Compton has completely changed his tune on the CBI. He has admitted its failure and criticises the United States heavily on it. Mr. George Mallet the Minister Of Trade who for the past few

years has been promoting the CBI as the New Jerusalem for the Caribbean has today become a strong critic of the CBI.

Just at this time when all the choir boys of US Imperialism are in accord that the CBI is a very defective instrument for accelerating Caribbean growth, Mr. Julian Hunte, naively or knavishly, jumps in on the side of defending the CBI. Is Mr. Hunte consulting St. Lucia's interest or the interest of the United States? Does Mr. Hunte see the need to talk in a pre-election period in the same way that Mr. Compton spoke from his Opposition perch in 1982 when he had to ensure that the United States was in his corner for the election? Is it safer for Mr. Hunte to throw the blame for the CBI on Mr. Compton's failure to explain CBI to his people than to throw the blame for the ill-conceived package on the United States?

Mr. Hunte could not be totally unfamiliar with the CBI since he had attended quite a few of the

Miami junkets promoting the CBI and in his capacity as Chairman of the National Development Corporation he must have been aware of the basic concept. But the question arises whether Mr. Hunte has the capacity to make analyses of such issues affecting St. Lucia and the Caribbean. A further question arises whether analyses are at all relevant in the Current Scenario. Mr. Hunte might well be more interested in his own Political Projections rather than in the Economic Fortunes of St. Lucia.

When Mr. Compton rated the CBI so highly was he really unaware of its real implication? Or was he more concerned with singing the tune of those who paid the piper and therefore put the real Economic Interest of the people of St. Lucia on the back-burner?

Now that Mr. Hunte has chosen to take up the Baton (which incidentally Mr. Compton has dropped) in defending the CBI* is he being just foolish...or in fact, knavish?

/9317
CSO: 3298/102

POLITICAL MANEUVERING HIGHLIGHTS ELECTION PREPARATIONS

SLP Executive Meeting

Castries CRUSADER in English 22 Nov 86 p 1

[Text]

The St.Lucia Labour Party took no chances with security at a meeting of the Executive of the Party held on Tuesday November 4th at the Office of Party Leader Julian Hunte.

IN a move which has no parallel in the history of any of the parties the SLP hired Brinks Security to prevent any one whose name was not on a select list from entering the meeting. The Brinks Guards were armed and followed closely the instructions given by a small clique which organised all aspects of the meeting.

It seemed clear that the main purpose of the meeting was to settle once and for all the niggling question of the candidacy for the Anselaraye-Canaries seat which has plagued the Party over the past few years. Mr.Kenneth Foster who had contested the seat in the 1979 election had once again expressed a strong interest in contesting this seat in the forthcoming election. There has

been an on-again and off-again aspect to Mr. Foster's candidacy. Party Leader Hunte speaking at an Anse Jambette Conference earlier this year indicated that he would be weeding out some of the traditional Labour Candidates who stood for the Party in previous elections. Mr.Foster was one of the traditional candidates whom the Party Leader had in mind. The uproar which greeted the Party ~~leader~~ statement after the conference forced him to retract the statement and give Mr. Foster the assurance that he was back on the slate.

However in recent weeks the tension concerning the allocation of seats has heightened and the small clique within the Executive decided to grasp the nettle of jettisoning these traditional candidates. The Executive Meeting was set up and although the Central Executive of the Party boasts almost fifty members the list handed to the Brinks Security men contained much less than the total Executive membership.

The strategy used at the meeting was to vote on a Resolution moved by the Party Leader to appoint one Mr. George Regis as the candidate for Anselaraye-Canaries. The voting machine was set and thirteen voted in support of the resolution with only six voting for Mr. Foster's candidacy.

The voting went as follows:

For

1. Julian HUnte
2. Peter Josie
3. Remy Lesmond
4. Tyron Maynard
5. Carl Pilgrim
6. "Citon" Poyotte
7. Charles Augustin
8. Martin Elwin
9. Hilary Moleste
10. Horatius Phillips
11. C.Jn Baptiste
12. Carlisle Jn Baptiste
13. Marchand Woman.

Against

1. Evans Calderon
2. Cecil Lay
3. Senator Mrs. Murray
4. Ellis Nicholas
5. Cecilia Mathurin
6. Tracy of Anselaraye.

There were about seven abstentions and at the end of the vote Mr. Foster who was non plussed by the proceeding made a tactical statement to the effect that he would support whoever the Party decided on. But later Mr. Foster expressed his disgust at the way things were "stage-managed". He said what went on there had nothing to do with the real Labour Party Executive. Mr. Foster is now considering whether he will contest the seat as an INDEPENDENT Labour. Last week a group of Anselaraye and Millet people were preparing a protest in support of Mr. Foster's candidacy.

Some sections of the SLP claimed that this was a pilot scheme and now three other traditional candidates will be lopped off in the same way.

SLP Rebuff of Odlum

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 22 Nov 86 p 1

[Text]

AFTER a spell during which it seemed that they were beginning to move closer together once more one-time close political allies George Odlum and Peter Josie were trading words again this week.

Sources inside the SLP say the party has been concerned about recent articles in Odlum's newspaper **THE CRUSADER** attempting to bring the party into disrepute, the latest claiming that deputy leader Josie was heading a "faction" in the party.

Said one SLP source: "It seems that a time when we are putting our business in order to fight the next elections, Odlum has embarked on a smear campaign aimed at discrediting our party."

During the week, Odlum went on Radio with another suggestion that there be some understanding between the two opposition parties in fighting the next elections due by August, at the latest.

He said the chances of the ruling United Workers Party (UWP) being re-elected were enhanced by "a divided opposition."

"The bias which favours the UWP as a result of the split opposition can be eroded if there is any understanding among the opposition as to how to fight the disposition of seats in a general election," Odlum, leader of the Progressive Labour Party (PLP) said.

Odlum, confirmed that his own party, battered by resignations and withdrawals by key members in recent years, would field a full slate of 17 candidates in the elections following the rejection by the SLP of his request for some sort of accommodation in presenting a united opposition to the UWP.

Claiming that the SLP's election candidates lacked "credibility," Odlum said: "Having seen what has gone before and the failure of both SLP and UWP Governments to realise their promises, credibility will be very important in this election."

The PLP leader, who was deputy Prime Minister in the last SLP administration before his relentless campaign for the leadership of the Government ended in failure, added: "A slate of credible candidates could do a lot of damage and sweep the ground under both the UWP and SLP who is supporting a slate of candidates now which has anything but credibility. As far as the PLP is concerned, it has to prove now that it could produce a viable slate of candidates which will at least take advantage of its support in the northern part of the island."

But Odlum's statement and the **CRUSADER** articles drew an unexpectedly tough response from Josie, who chose to stay in the SLP when Odlum withdrew in 1981 to form the PLP.

In a statement issued to the media this week, Josie said that as a member of the SLP he fully

supported the party line to reject Odlum's efforts to have the parties adopt a joint approach in fighting the UWP.

Said Josie, who once advocated that the SLP at least talk accommodation with Odlum: "The observation by Odlum that there is a Josie faction inside the SLP is false, fictitious and calculated to deceive. I am deputy political leader of the SLP and I fully support Julian Hunte as political leader. From our knowledge of Odlum, these political tactics are meant to put fear and confusion in the minds of those who have been the victims of UWP rule."

Josie, whose break with Odlum at the height of the power struggle in the SLP Government, was said to have caused Odlum particular pain, said his party was confident that it could take the reins of power and "give St. Lucia back to St. Lucians" on its own.

He said: "The party remains committed to bringing back to its fold all those who were once members of this grand old Labour Party. To date we have accepted applications from many persons including most of the former PLP candidates of 1982."

Observers say Josie's statement puts a damper on recent attempts in the **CRUSADER** to play up to the SLP deputy leader. Odlum and Josie maintained a strong political friendship for some 13 years, starting from the days of the St. Lucia Forum pressure group in the late 1960s until they parted company in 1981, when Josie went on television to express personal disenchantment with the manner in which Odlum had been campaigning for the position of former Prime Minister Allan Lousy.

Analysis of Odlum's Position

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 22 Nov 86 p 2

[Editorial]

AT various times during the past 18 months we have watched with interest, amazement and sometimes amusement, the attempts by the leader of the Progressive Labour Party, Mr. Odlum, to regain the trust, confidence and indeed, support of the St. Lucia Labour Party.

One would have thought that by now Mr. Odlum would have come to his senses and realise that he is destined to fight that next election, and other subsequent elections on his own. Not that the idea of some understanding between the two opposition parties is not a sound and pragmatic one, mind you.

Had we been dealing with two parties and political personalities that had not had such a traumatic recent past, perhaps there would have been at least a basis for them getting together to fight the United Workers' Party next year.

But both the SLP and the PLP have been through hell and high water since 1979. In that year the SLP which then included Odlum was swept into power on a tide of popularity. Three and a half years later and 18 months before the next elections were due, the party found itself on the road again, campaigning to return to power.

Odlum's role in the demise of the SLP Government in the early weeks of 1981 are documented for posterity. In fact, he publicly boasted both of the role he played in getting the SLP into the seat of power and that in bringing about its downfall.

During those years of internal wrangling within the SLP, there was never a dull moment and Odlum played no small part in seeing there was not. He chided, abused and denigrated Prime Minister Allan Louisy on the market steps

and in the media, and he publicly ridiculed the party executive and many of its key members.

Finally, he severed links with the SLP and formed his own, a bold and wise step, in the circumstances then. In the 1982 elections, both parties were routed at the polls. That SLP members today still hold Odlum responsible for their party being humiliated as it was in 1982 is well known.

So, it seems that as far as the SLP is concerned, Mr. Odlum has a lot to pay for, and not even the constant rebuffs Mr. Odlum has been suffering at the hands of his old party over his suggestions that they come together as a united force to fight the elections seems to convince the PLP leader that it is time he realised he is on his own.

But all along Mr. Odlum has told us that how unpopular the UWP is. All along he has told us how so poorly the other two parties are doing in so far as candidates are concerned. Only this week, he was heard talking about "credibility" of the SLP candidates. Surely, if all Mr. Odlum is saying is true, then the way is clear for his own party to put together a fighting team that will annihilate both the UWP and the SLP come election day.

Surely, if all he is telling us is true—that the other parties are so unpopular and have no ideas to run the country properly then he as leader of the third party should take his own message, his own programmes to the country. He should be able to, give his oratorial skills and platform personality, convince the electorate that as far as future government goes, the PLP is the ONLY alternative.

But Mr. Odlum is not doing any of this. And this makes many people suspicious of him. This makes them question his own credibility, and wonder whether all the posturing he has been doing on behalf of the PLP, painting it as the most capable and endowed of the three parties, is not, to use one of his favourite terms, just plain BLUFF.

We think Mr. Odlum should set about putting his house in order rather than trying to create confusion and mischief in the houses of others.

Review of Preparations

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 22 Nov 86 p 4

[Text] PREPARATIONS are continuing for St. Lucia's next general elections scheduled for next year.

In recent weeks there has been increased activity on all fronts by those likely to be involved in the poll.

Leaders of all three political parties have been making public statements on the upcoming elections, but there is still no formal announcement of what the parties' line up of candidates for the 17 constituencies might look like.

The St. Lucia Labour Party which appears to most prepared for the poll among the parties, says it is also ready to take over the seat of Government from where it left off in January 1982 when it was forced to bow to public pressure after more than three years of internal rivalry and other problems.

Ruling United Workers Chairman Henry Giraudy has expressed the view that the party would win another term.

Progressive Labour Party (PLP) Leader George Odlum has also been on the radio promising that the electorate will see the party in action some time soon as it gears for the election.

There is reported to be some apprehension in some UWP circles about the party's readiness for the election. One UWP insider lamented the "poor administrative machinery" of the ruling party and pointed to its failure so far to hold its annual convention or set a date for it, as an indication of the serious state of inactivity that faces the party at the moment.

The election machinery itself is in a state of readiness and Electoral Office officials say more than 82,000 St. Lucians, 18 years and over will be eligible to take part in the elections.

Questions of ballot paper security, outside interference and the conduct of the police were all raised when three political parties met this week with the Electoral Commission in preparation for forthcoming general elections here.

The Commission through Chief Elections Officer Mr. Clair Daniel assured the parties that arrangements would be made to ensure that the papers used in the printing of ballots had a security thread, or a water mark.

"Representatives (of the parties) were informed that arrangements were being made to have that processed by a British firm and the authorities have agreed to it," Daniel said.

All three groups urged against outside interference or persons coming in to officiate at the elections, Daniel said.

"The Commission pointed out that this had not happened in the past and it would not in future," he said.

The meeting has fuelled speculation among political observers that an early poll, possibly by April, might be in the offing. The general election is constitutionally due by next August, at the very latest.

Daniel said the party secretaries also expressed concern over the attire of the police during the last elections.

"They complained that the police were clothed and armed in a way which may have intimidated voters, and their presence may have caused them to turn away," Daniel reported.

The parties suggested that although they are necessary on election day, the police should remain within the 100 yards perimeter of polling stations as defined in the law but that separate officers "should be kept in readiness at a police station near the polling station in the event of some sort of disturbance."

The Commission promised that the matter will be discussed with the Commissioner of Police.

The parties also sought clarification on whether party representatives would be allowed to accompany the returning officer after ballot boxes are being returned following the preliminary count at polling stations.

The Chief Elections officer explained that the law provided for each candidate to have an agent who will accompany the Returning Officer.

Daniel said that steps were taken to relieve the congestion at polling booths which will not now have to accommodate more than 400 voters.

He said that based on the enumeration exercise, it appeared that there would be 242 polling stations for the next elections, compared with 183 in 1982.

Provisions will also be made for registration centres so that persons who turn 18 by the qualifying date of February 15, would have the chance to register in the event that elections are called by March.

"The revision of the voters list has led to over 3,000 changes and corrections which were effected during the house to house enumeration, and over 1,300 new voters have been registered in recent months," Daniel said.

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CSO: 3298/102

ST LUCIA

BRIEFS

SLP PAPER--The St Lucia Labour Party is launching its own newspaper. According to SLP Leader Mr Julian Hunte, the newspaper, which is called "LABOUR" will hit the streets this weekend. Mr Hunte says the launching of the official organ of the St Lucia Labour Party is the latest in a series of projects being undertaken by the party, as it gears for the next general election. [Text] [Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 6 Dec 86 p 1] /9317

CSO: 3298/102

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

BRIEFS

BEQUIA AIRPORT--The Bequia airport project may be facing a crisis. Prime Minister James Mitchell has been vocal on the matter. Last week he said that his government was still hoping that the project comes on stream. Mr Mitchell has pointed out that the project, while being presented to the European Economic Community by the Caricom Secretariat, ran into some problems. The Secretariat, Mitchell said, included other business not strictly identifiable with the case of the project and this has resulted in questioning by the European Commission in Brussels and the European Investment Bank. The new European delegate to the Eastern Caribbean who is based in Barbados, visited the project's site in Paget Farm, Bequia, last week. The Bequia airport project is part of the Regional programme to be funded under the Lome Convention. [Text] [Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 12 Dec 86 p 6] /9317

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